

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTH.

At Foochow, on the 17th inst., the wife of WILLIAM GRAHAM, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 9th October, 1897, at H.B.M.'s Consulate, and afterwards at St. Andrew's Church, Chefoo, EDWARD JENNER HOGG, of Shanghai, to ELIZABETH MARY, widow of the late FREDERICK HAYLEY BELL, of Shanghai.

On the 11th October, 1897, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., ARTHUR DAVIES PELL, M.B., C.M. (Edinburgh), of the London Mission, Chichon, North China, to ALICE MURIEL MCFARLANE, daughter of J. H. McFarlane, Esq., J.P., Glenbourne, Edinburgh.

On the 12th October, 1897, at H.B.M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, by Sir Nicholas Hannen, and afterwards at St. Joseph's Church, by the Rev. F. A. Colombel, LEONARD KERR, of Shanghai, to MAGDELINE, eldest daughter of Paul BRUNAT, Esq., of Shanghai.

On the 15th October, 1897, at Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., JOHN BROCK, China Inland Mission, Ganking, youngest son of Mr. Archibald Brock, Greenock, Scotland, to EDITH, third daughter of J. ELLIOTT, Assistant Commissary General, Ordnance Department (retired), now of Toronto, Canada.

On the 15th October, 1897, at H.B.M.'s Consulate-General, Shanghai, by Sir Nicholas J. Hannen, and afterwards at Trinity Cathedral, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., FREDERICK WILLIAM S. APLETON, to EMMELINE MAUDE, eldest daughter of John Howell MAY, Imperial Maritime Customs.

On the 15th October, 1897, at the Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., JAMES SCOTT, son of Findlay Scott, Feuar, Greenock, to JANE MCILWRAITH ISBISTER, daughter of Capt. John ISBISTER, Greenock.

On the 20th October, 1897, at St. Peter's, Hongkong, by the Rev. A. Iliff, HEATHFIELD CHARLES DALTON, eldest son of the late Major H. J. FRAMP-
TON, late 50th Queen's Own, to FLORENCE JANE, youngest daughter of Mrs. Charles H. ACKERS, Government Civil Hospital, and grand-daughter of the late Major T. Pickup Ackers, R.H.A., formally of "Orell," Litherland Park, Litherland, near Liverpool.

DEATHS.

At Hangchow, on the 8th October, 1897, the Rev. E. HUGHES-DON, of the Church Missionary Society.

At the Shanghai General Hospital, on the 18th October, 1897, ALFRED JONES, I. M. C., Hangchow, aged 27 years.

On the 20th October, at Elliot Crescent, ADA, the dearly beloved daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. LAMKE, aged 6 years and 3 months.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 11th September arrived, per P. M. steamer *Aztec*, on the 21st October (40 days); the American mail of the 21st September arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Gaelic*, on the 21st October (30 days); and the French mail of the 24th September arrived, per M. M. steamer *Melbourne*, on the 26th October (32 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Admiral Buller has recently been paying a visit to Peking. The French Admiral has also just concluded a visit to the capital.

According to the *Peking and Tientsin Times* it is reported that Mr. A. E. Hippisley is to go to Tientsin as Commissioner of Customs.

The Foreign community of Bangkok intend to present an address to H.M. the King of Siam on his return from his European tour.

The Shanghai Local Post is to be closed on the 31st October and will be taken over by the Imperial Chinese Post Office next morning.

A native Volunteer Corps is being formed in certain provinces of the Philippines, under a decree issued by the Governor-General dated the 16th October.

A violent storm, accompanied by an extraordinarily high tide, caused considerable damage along the Tonkin coast on the morning of the 16th October.

The Penang Chamber of Commerce has unanimously nominated Dr. Brown as its representative in the Straits Legislative Council, in succession to the late Mr. Daniel Logan.

It may not pay to send coals to Newcastle, but there seems to be some profit in sending tea to China. During the first six months of 1896 Ceylon sent 86,603 lbs. of tea to the Celestial Empire, and during the corresponding period of 1897 the export rose to 259,705 lbs.—*Pioneer*.

The Shanghai Municipal Council has issued a notification to the effect that on and after 1st January, 1898, no milk or other dairy produce shall be permitted to be sold in the Settlements, except such as shall come from dairies which voluntarily submit to inspection by the properly authorised officers of the Council.

Mr. Takahira, the Japanese Minister to Vienna, has telegraphed his Government that the committees representing the respective interests of Austria and Hungary, appointed to consider the new Treaty between Japan and Austria-Hungary, have come to an agreement, and it is expected that the new Treaty will be signed shortly.

A Seoul despatch of the 14th October says:—The King of Korea received in audience last night the foreign representatives in Seoul, when his Majesty informed them that he would hereafter be called Emperor. The foreign representatives offered their personal congratulations, but officially they have not expressed either their approval or disapproval.

Owing to the rise in the price of Japanese coal, says the *Nagasaki Press*, the Japanese railway authorities are about to make a trial purchase of 50,000 piculs of Australian coal. Should the Australian coal prove satisfactory, further purchases will be made.

An Imperial edict of the 14th October hands over Shih Nien-tsu, Governor of Kwangsi, to the tender mercies of the Board of Civil Appointments for alleged misdemeanours, his accuser being a Censor named Tsiang Shih-fên. The same edict also cashier and dismisses from the service a number of minor officials implicated with that Governor.—*N. C. Daily News*.

H.E. Baron von Heyking, German Minister in Peking, was to leave Shanghai on the 24th October by the steamer *Tatung* for Hankow. He is accompanied by Mr. Krebs, assistant Interpreter, and Captain von Teichmann, the new Military Attaché of the Legation. Vice-Admiral von Diederichs, Commander-in-Chief of the German squadron, was also to leave on the 24th for Hankow.

The following telegram received by Messrs. Fearon, Daniel & Co., Agents for the P.M.S. Co. at Shanghai, has been published:—"Secretary of the Treasury reverses Attorney-General's orders collection 10 per cent. contiguous countries under Section 22." From this it would appear that all cargo shipped to the United States via Canada will be, after all, subject to an *ad valorem* duty of 10 per cent.

The prospectus of the Foochow Tea Improvement Co., Limited, has been published. The object of the Company is to acquire as a going concern the business hitherto carried on by the Foochow Tea Improvement Association in the manufacture of machine made tea. The capital proposed is \$250,000 divided into 5,000 shares of \$50 each of which it is proposed to issue at present the sum of \$125,000 in 2,500 shares.

The German community of Kobe were entertained at a picnic at Maiko on the 10th October by the German Commercial Commission, which is now on a visit to Kobe. Mr. von Krencki, the German Consul, proposed the toast of the Kaiser, and this having been duly honoured, Dr. Knappe, the German Consul at Canton, who is "personally conducting" the Mission, made an interesting speech explaining its objects. The Mission, Dr. Knappe said, did not come to the East with any idea of showing people how to do business; its idea was not to teach but to learn, to find out what might be necessary for large, industrial firms at home to know and do, and generally to spread in the interior of Germany a better knowledge of questions of commerce and export, particularly as these affected the Far East. He explained that the Mission had no intention whatever of doing any business or of entering into any sort of competition with merchants here. Its members, who were composed of directors of companies, engineers, and men of business mainly from the interior of Germany, were fully aware that the middleman was absolutely necessary to healthy commercial transactions, particularly in the form which business took in the Far East. He concluded by expressing the pleasure of the Mission that so large a number of the German community of Kobe had accepted the invitation to be present on that occasion.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

THE SHIPPING CONFERENCE AND ITS EFFECT ON BRITISH TRADE.

The recently issued blue book giving the replies to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S despatch of 28th November, 1895, to the Governors of colonies on the trade of the British empire and foreign competition, is prefaced by an introductory memorandum signed by Mr. C. ALEXANDER HARRIS, in which the main features of the replies are summarised. In this memorandum the following passage occurs:—"There are many remarkable cases in the returns which bring up the question of freights for serious consideration. There is not material for analysing the effect of shipping subsidies on freight, an inquiry indeed which would be beyond the scope of this memorandum. Attention, however, is drawn to some of the more remarkable instances where the freight is against the British producer and in favour of his foreign rival. In some cases the freights which favour the latter are given by British vessels." Several examples are given, including that supplied by Hongkong, but unfortunately a misprint deprives it of its appositeness. The Hongkong Committee said:—"In this connection the Committee wish to make special reference to the advantages conferred on American cotton piece goods in the China market by the rates of freight charged by the Conference steamers from New York to Hongkong and Shanghai, which average from 25/- to 30/- per ton as compared with 57/6 from London and Liverpool outwards. The same remarks apply to the shipment of machinery from the United States to China, the freight for which is about forty per cent. lower than that from British ports." In the introductory memorandum to the blue book this is given as follows:—"As a result of the Shipping Conference the freight from New York to Shanghai is 30/- per ton; New York to London 57/6 per ton," which makes it meaningless.

Hongkong does not stand alone in drawing attention to this question of differential freights. At Cape Colony, for instance, we are told that freight was the main factor in letting in the United States, e.g. 22/6 per ton was charged for furniture from New York; 31/3 to 33/9 per ton for furniture from London. The New South Wales report suggests that in some cases the competition for freights has caused British goods to be taken to foreign ports for shipment, and that British goods are thus entered in the returns as foreign and apparently swell the amount of foreign importations. On the other hand, the South Australian report, going fully into subsidies and freights, and showing that foreign freights generally are the lower, concludes that prices are not materially affected; and the Queensland report suggests that shipping facilities are, as a rule, in favour of Great Britain and that the Continental trade would increase with further facilities. Whatever may be the case in Queensland, however, there can be no doubt that in the Far East foreign competition with English trade has been materially favoured by lower cost of carriage. At least a good case is made out for further inquiry as to the effect on trade of differential rates of freight and the means by which the inequalities existing can be corrected.

From a letter by a Mr. K. M. Foss in the *Times* of 20th September it would seem that this matter is not to rest where it is. Mr. Foss writes as one who for ten years past has watched the East Indian shipping monopoly, and he draws the attention of

manufacturers to a portion of what has taken place in India and Ceylon during the latter part of the time covered by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S report. What he says is not written in a spirit of unfriendly criticism as to the management of any steamship company. The directors of these concerns, he says, owe it as a duty to their shareholders to earn for them substantial dividends, and the management of certain of the Eastern steamship lines has been admirably successful, enterprising, and strong; but he urges that the system of conferences or rings is prejudicial to imperial trading interests. Having adduced a number of instances and authorities in support of his argument he intimates that an association is in course of formation with the following objects:—(1) To investigate the causes at present existing which favour successful foreign competition in India and Ceylon, and to suggest how such may best be met. (2) To inquire into the grievances of any member trading with India and Ceylon. (3) To co-operate with similar associations formed or forming in the colonies, and, if necessary, to bring matters tending to restrain or handicap British trade to the notice of Parliament. Such an association, if its formation is accomplished, ought to render useful service, and it would be an advantage if its scope were extended so as to include questions affecting the Far East. Every one must rejoice in the prosperity of our great shipping corporations in so far as such prosperity is achieved on legitimate lines, but preferential treatment accorded to foreign trade, at the cost of British trade, is a thing to be condemned unreservedly.

PERJURY IN THE HONGKONG COURTS.

Time after time the extraordinary prevalence of perjury in the Hongkong law courts has been emphasized by judges, lawyers, and magistrates, but notwithstanding all the talking and the warnings of punishment there has been no apparent decrease in this most dangerous crime, and perjury is just as rife now as ever it was. In a case heard in the Supreme Court on the 6th. October Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., said he was sorry to say that perjury was committed in almost every case brought before the Court, and the Chief Justice promptly testified to the truth of that statement. This deplorable state of affairs suggests two things which might be usefully considered by judges and magistrates and also by the law officers of the Crown. In the first place, the law relating to the giving of false evidence might with great advantage be more rigorously enforced. According to the Evidence Consolidation Ordinance, No. 2 of 1889, a judge or a magistrate has power to punish a witness who makes contradictory statements by directing a prosecution against him for perjury, or by fining him a sum not exceeding \$200, or by sending him to gaol for a term not exceeding six months, with or without hard labour. In a case heard at the Criminal Sessions last Friday three men were charged with highway robbery with violence. When before the magistrate the prosecutor gave positive evidence of identification, but at the trial before the Chief Justice he swore he was unable to identify any one of the prisoners, and the case for the Crown therefore collapsed. Seeing that the prosecutor had deliberately lied at the Magistracy or at the Supreme Court it is somewhat unfortunate that His Lordship

did not see his way to inflict a heavy penalty on the liar for contempt of court, that is, for making contradictory statements. He either attempted in the first instance to convict three innocent men or has been the means of setting free three desperate marauders. We all know that certain Chinamen can be bought over for a very small sum of money and the case we have just cited suggests the possibility that the witness was paid by the accused or their friends to give a totally different story at the Supreme Court from that which he gave before the magistrate. The case was a flagrant one and the infliction of the full penalty would have made the lying witness and all others of his kin wince. The Chief Justice exploded a telling bomb in the incendiaries' den a short time ago, and we trust he will ere long deal a severe blow to perjurers.

The second point is one which might present difficulties, but it furnishes an interesting subject for discussion. It has reference to the method of swearing Chinese witnesses. We all know that the method of swearing English witnesses is by no means a perfect one; the Scotch method is perhaps better. How many witnesses when asked to kiss the Book kiss their right thumb? How many jurymen resorted to this dodge during the last Criminal Sessions? The number was perhaps 30 per cent. But we should think that an Englishman who kisses his thumb regards the oath equally as binding as if he kissed the Book, and perhaps if questioned he would say his own flesh was holier than cardboard or Russian leather and that his particular method was not an escape from kissing the Bible but a guard against possible infection. The question as it affects Chinese is, which do they consider the most binding form of affirmation? Does the affirmation as it is administered in Hongkong impress them with that awe and solemnity which we like to associate with the English oath? A Chinese gentleman once remarked that the uneducated Chinese in Hongkong had no idea of what was the true meaning of the affirmation which they repeated when called as witnesses and that the cutting off of a cock's head impressed them much more deeply with the obligation they owed to the Court. The strength of an oath or affirmation lies in the power which the form of taking it exercises over the witness himself. For our own part we do not think that either cutting off a cock's head, breaking a saucer, or any other of the absurd forms adopted in China to seal an oath has any such binding force on the average witness as to make its introduction into our English courts desirable from that point of view, while it is distinctly undesirable on account of the sanction it would give to gross superstition. It might, however, be well if each Chinese witness was cautioned before giving his evidence that any wilful misstatements would render him liable to fine or imprisonment, and it would certainly be well to enforce the penalty in all cases where the offence of perjury clearly appears. In the criminal courts in China the means relied upon to extract the truth from the witnesses is not the cutting off of a cock's head but the persuasive power exerted by the lictors by means of their rattans and other instruments of torture, and, barbarous as the system is, it is generally effective. We cannot in this colony follow the example of China in that respect, but we think the more frequent infliction of the summary punishment provided by law for perjury would result in materially lessening the offence.

FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN KOREA.

The opening this month of the ports of Mokpo and Chemampo in Korea to foreign trade has, with characteristic jealousy, been seized upon by Russian journalists as a proof of British and Japanese encroachments in the peninsular kingdom. A Seoul correspondent of the *Novoe Vremya* has written to the effect that this is the result of a conspiracy between British and Japanese officials, the former to push British trade, the latter to make a pacific conquest of the country. The Japanese, he asserts, are gradually establishing garrisons in different parts of the country under the pretext of safeguarding Japanese interests, and the British are seeking to convert Korea into one of their best markets. If there were any truth in the last assertion, it would require a great deal of patient effort and much careful nursing, for the trade is at present very small and likely to remain so, as the country is poor and the people have few wants and purchase scarcely any of what may be accounted luxuries. The Japanese have large settlements at the different treaty ports, and require a good number of policemen to maintain order. If in addition they employ a few troops as garrison they are quite right, since they have considerable interests to protect against much Chinese intrigue and Russian craft. Japan has not, however, lately made any attempt to subvert the independence of Korea, and it will be high time to cry out when Korea herself feels hurt. As for Great Britain endeavouring to create a market for her exports in Korea, she does this in every country, and will continue to do it. But she has never claimed for her subjects any advantages which other foreign traders do not enjoy in consequence of the opening of the country to foreign trade. Here again the other Powers are indebted to England and the United States, for it was through the exertions of these two Powers, backed by Japan, that the whilom Hermit Kingdom at length opened its ports to foreign trade. Neither Power ever sought any exclusive advantage, and every one of the Great Powers is on the same footing. How then by any stretch of the imagination Great Britain can be accused of attempting encroachments in Korea passeth, as Mr. GLADSTONE would say, the wit of man to discover.

These snarls and libels come with a peculiarly bad grace from a Power which is constantly scheming not only to secure predominance in Korea, to the exclusion of all other countries, but is also laying careful plans for the annexation of Manchuria, if this can be brought about by bluff and bounce. Russia is patient and hath a frugal mind. She can wait years in the hope that events will so shape that at the right moment she can advance with safety and without shedding the blood of a Cossack or spending a rouble. The magnificent move played by her in 1860, after the Anglo-French War with China, when by carefully calculated pressure she induced the Government of Peking to sign a treaty rectifying the Siberian frontier in such fashion as gave her a vast slice of territory on the Amour equal to a small kingdom, cannot of course often be safely repeated, but something like it was covertly obtained at the conclusion of the Chino-Japanese War, where, for acting the part of the honest broker she is looking forward to a deferred payment which will embrace what is now left to China of the family heritage of the Ta Tsing Dynasty. Any complaint of British or Japanese aggression from such a source therefore comes with a specially bad grace. The

accusations against Great Britain are so entirely uncalled for that they arouse a just indignation. She has never sought to acquire influence in Korea, and gave up Port Hamilton when the occasion for holding it ceased. As for her trade, it is singularly small in Korea, there being in the entire country only two British mercantile firms established. For the information of the Russian Press we may state that no British armed force is maintained in the country, and British instructors are not engaged in Anglicising the Korean army!

INTERESTS AFFECTED BY THE EXCHANGE QUESTION.

A Shanghai contemporary has published a tabulated list of the various interests that would respectively benefit, not be materially affected, and be adversely affected by an increase in the gold value of silver. The compiler can hardly be complimented on his perspicacity, the list being open to grave objection. To take one instance, we are told that steamers owned in England but trading locally and earning freights in silver would benefit. So they might for a time, but how long would the benefit last? Only so long as would be required to attract to China some of the large number of vessels always waiting for profitable employment; upon the arrival of these, freights would drop to their old gold level, or perhaps below it, owing to the increased competition resulting from the presence of a larger number of steamers on the coast. The division of the list that is least open to objection is that of the interests that would not be materially affected in the long run. In fact, if stability of exchange could only be secured the particular rate would not very much matter to any interest, except to the holders of silver, as trade will adapt itself to any rate. The rate being high or low may confer some temporary advantage or disadvantage upon this or that interest, but it must necessarily prove only temporary, as the process of adjustment closely follows upon each fluctuation. The *Mercury's* list of those whose interests would not be materially affected in the long run is as follows:—(1).—Importers of English and American goods, "for though silver prices are slow to rise and adapt themselves to a low exchange, they are quick to fall on a higher exchange. We say 'importers' as the importer's interest is the margin (always slender) between the price paid at home and the price received from the native, and whether low exchange causes poor profits to the manufacturer or high exchange enables him to get a better price, it is not the importer (the intermediary) who reaps the advantage. (2).—Importers of Indian yarn and opium, the cheapening of which by a higher exchange will certainly be met by a corresponding, though probably much slower, fall in the price of local cotton and native drug. (3).—Cotton mills in the East, which, so long as the price of cotton is consistent with that of its products, will still hold the field. During the period of transition there might be some disturbance of financial conditions, but prices could not fail to adapt themselves to the new situation." Cheap silver has been much dwelt upon as an element of prosperity to the infant cotton industry of China, and it is not improbable that the course of exchange has somewhat accelerated the establishment of the industry, but with an abundant supply of labour, the raw material at hand, and a large market, it was inevitable that sooner or later the Chinese should begin to think

of spinning and weaving for themselves, quite independently of considerations turning on the relative values of the precious metals.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

British North Borneo would seem to be getting on when we find the community demanding more effective representation on the Council and complaining of the taxation. From a letter reproduced in our columns yesterday from the *Singapore Free Press* it would be seen that a public meeting was held at Sandakan last month to protest against certain taxation proposals, and the question of representation on the Council was touched upon by the Chairman in the course of his speech. One of the industries affected by the new taxation is that of timber cutting, an industry which has made good progress and is full of promise. The correspondent says:—"Of course it is only fair that the Government should share in increased prosperity of any trade in its territory, but it is a question whether it should not be satisfied with the indirect advantages which must accrue to the revenue from an increased population and circulation of money, instead of running the risk of killing the goose which lays the golden eggs by shoving up the direct taxes. No fortunes have yet been made in Borneo in the timber or any other trade, and, for the present, I am of opinion that it would be to the advantage of the Government to nurse and encourage the industries of the country, and not to crush or even hamper them with hasty taxation." But as the Government of British North Borneo is a Company formed for the purpose of earning dividends for its shareholders it is not unnatural that some difference of opinion should be exhibited regarding the extent to which the Government should nurse infant industries and the point at which it should seek to draw a substantial revenue for them. The British North Borneo Company has hitherto been tolerably patient in waiting for returns on its investment, but there is no blinking the fact that the Company's object is to make money out of the territory. Herein lies the disadvantage of Company administration, and it is much to be regretted that North Borneo is not governed as a Crown colony, when there would be no inducement to bleed its infant industries. It is possible, however, that in the long run the demands on the Borneo revenue for dividends to the shareholders may not prove more onerous than the demands of the Imperial Government on Hongkong for military contribution. In course of years the revenue of North Borneo will no doubt become as large as Hongkong's revenue at the present time, and the same amount that Hongkong has to pay as military contribution would suffice to pay the North Borneo Company's shareholders a dividend of seven or eight per cent.

MR. CHATER AND INCREASED TAXATION.

(23rd October.)

Some comment has been occasioned by the statement in the Governor's telegram to the Secretary of State in connection with the Diamond Jubilee memorial to the effect that the Hon. C. P. CHATER had promised that in the event of the Government's contribution causing a deficit in the budget the said deficit should be made good by an addition of \$1 to the municipal rates. It is evident that there must have been a misunderstanding somewhere, as Mr. CHATER

was not in a position to make any such promise and he is too sound a business man to make statements or promises that he might subsequently have to retract. We suspect the misunderstanding has arisen from a loose use of the word "promise" by His Excellency, and that what was described as a promise was in fact nothing more than the expression of an individual opinion as to the means by which the hypothetical deficit might be made good. Mr. CHATER was fully entitled to form his own opinion on that point and to give expression to it, and if the question was put to him as between raising a loan or increasing the taxation it was not unnatural that he should pronounce in favour of the latter, as it would have detracted from the character of the memorial to have thrown the cost of it on to distant posterity. In any case, however, the use of the word "promise" in the telegram was injudicious and misleading, as Mr. CHATER could not give any promise binding upon the colony nor would it have been correct of the Governor to accept any such promise if given. The utmost that Mr. CHATER could promise would be that his own individual vote should be cast in a certain way if the question came up in Council. Perhaps the condensation requisite in telegraphing is responsible for the use of the word "promise" in a connection that was calculated to give rise to misapprehension.

SALE OF THE TAIPINGSHAN PROPERTY.

It was not to be expected that the valuable land in the resumed area of Taipingshan would be allowed to remain unoccupied very long, notwithstanding the failure of the attempted sale in May last. The objection of possible purchasers on that occasion was the high Crown rent attached to the lots. Terms have now been arranged on that point, the Government having reduced the amount previously demanded by more than three-fourths, but on the other hand we believe it is expected that on the average of the whole area the net premium realised will be somewhat greater, though judging from the lots now advertised no material enhancement has been made in the upset price, which indeed appears to be lower in the case of some of the lots. As to the Crown rent, the feeling amongst property owners and agents is distinctly averse to the fixing of a high rent, which, it is contended, operates like a compulsory mortgage and makes it more difficult to obtain a loan on the property should the owner at any time so desire, as a high Crown rent materially reduces the income available for the payment of interest. Looked at from a public point of view the Crown rents are one of the best forms of raising revenue, and some political economists would limit taxation to this one particular form, which, it is contended, would fall upon all interests more equitably than a multiplicity of indirect taxes, which fall heavily on some interests and allow others to escape entirely. Whatever may be said on this point by way of abstract argument, however, it is clear that the community of Hongkong is not prepared as yet to accept the principle of high Crown rents, and in attempting to increase the revenue from this source the Government will have to advance slowly.

The *Kobe Chronicle* learns that Mr. Hobart Hampden, second assistant at the British Consulate, leaves Kobe in the course of a day or so to take charge of British interests at Tamsui during the temporary absence of Mr. Bonar,

THE LU-HAN RAILWAY.

After many years of talk and much procrastination, it seems tolerably certain that the Grand Trunk Railway of China will be actually commenced before the present year closes. According to our Shanghai morning contemporary the first sod of this great line—by far the most important yet projected in the Central Kingdom—is to be cut in the beginning of next month. No actual date appears to have been fixed, but it is stated that the Viceroy CHANG and the great SHENG had decided upon the commencement of November, and that the occasion was to be attended with some pomp and ceremony, that is to say, there will be much tom-tomming and banner-waving by the Yamen ragamuffins and a good deal of cracker firing with perhaps a little powder spent in salutes. It is even expected that His Excellency the Viceroy may find time to cross over from Wuchang to Hankow to preside over the function, and the illustrious SHENG will make a point of being present. The latter official as loan raiser and railway constructor seems to have slipped into the place formerly occupied by Li HUNG-CHANG, and he will find it equally profitable. SHENG has five million taels placed to his credit by the Board of Revenue for this work, and it will, as our Shanghai contemporary observes, at any rate suffice for a commencement. It will be curious to watch the progress of this work under SHENG. There are few great natural obstacles in the way, and if the enterprise is honestly conducted it ought to be completed in a reasonable time. It is sincerely to be hoped that the Chief Director may, as a matter of policy, forbear squeezing too heavily on this occasion, both in order that China may get her great central line at a moderate cost and that the Imperial Government may be encouraged to continue the work and connect the capital with the great southern city of Canton.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held at the Council Chamber on the 25th October. Present:—

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, G.C.M.G.

COLONEL ELSDALE, R. E. (Officer Commanding the Forces).

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN (Attorney-General).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Ho Kai.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Hon. WEI A. YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. R. D. Ormsby took the oath of allegiance and his seat on his appointment as Director of Public Works.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the report of the Director of Public Works for the half year ending 30th June, 1897, and the report of the Special Engineers on the Praya Reclamation Works for the half year ended 30th June, 1897.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

On the motion of the COLONIAL SECRETARY, seconded by the COLONIAL TREASURER, Financial Minutes Nos. 20, 21, and 22 were referred to the Finance Committee.

SANITARY BY-LAW.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY intimated that he regretted he was unable to bring forward the Sanitary By-law mentioned in the agenda, but he would do so at the next meeting.

CHARGES AGAINST THE POLICE.

In pursuance of notice Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked the following question—Was the evidence taken by the Honourable the Captain Superintendent of Police and the Crown Solicitor in connection with the charges against Inspector Stanton and other members of the Police Force submitted to the Honourable the Attorney-General for his opinion, and was he satisfied as to its sufficiency before action was taken thereon, and did His Excellency the Governor sanction the dismissal of Inspector Stanton and other members of the Police Force with the advice of the Executive Council or on the sole recommendation of the Captain Superintendent of Police?

HIS EXCELLENCY—The question of the hon. member is not in order and cannot, therefore, be answered. I think it right to avail myself of this opportunity to state that I am somewhat surprised that the hon. member should have asked a question which, besides being irregular, does not seem to be intended to help the Government in dealing with a matter of extreme delicacy and of great importance to the welfare of this community. As Governor I am responsible for my acts and I have no desire to shirk that responsibility.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—If I may be allowed to make one or two remarks I wish—

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The hon. member is quite out of order, your Excellency.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD did not proceed further.

COLONIAL TREASURY BALANCES.

In pursuance of notice Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked the following question—Under what authority and for what purposes have the Crown Agents for the Colonies recently sold in London to the Exchange Banks o/d bills on Hongkong for large amounts; if this has been done in virtue of any special instructions will the Government lay a copy thereof on the table together with a copy of the Secretary of State's general instructions in connection with the custody and the disposal of the Colonial Government's cash balances in Hongkong?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The authority for which the hon. member asks is that of the Secretary of State. The purposes for which the Crown Agents recently sold in London on demand bills in Hongkong were (a) to pay for the silver used in minting, freight, and carriage expenses incurred in connection with consignments of subsidiary coins, (b) to meet the usual expenditure incurred on behalf of this Government by Crown Agents. The general instructions in connection with the custody and disposal of the cash balances of the Government will be laid upon the table.

HONGKONG'S CONTRIBUTION TO QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE FUND.

In pursuance of notice the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD asked the following question:—(Can the Colonial Government's contribution of \$98,892.28 towards the Queen's Jubilee Fund be paid out of the existing balance of the sterling loan, or out of revenue balances in hand, or partly out of one and partly out of the other, or is it to be paid out of revenue? If out of revenue how is such revenue to be raised and will the Imperial Government forego its claim to the military contribution of 17½ per cent. on \$98,892.28, viz.—\$17,306.15, and present it to the colony as the Imperial Government's contribution towards the Jubilee Fund?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The answer to the former part of the question will be given by His Excellency the Governor in his opening speech. As to the latter part of the question the Secretary of State has refused to remit the 17½ per cent. to which the hon. member alludes.

HANSARD REPORT.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of the following question:—If the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, after last meeting of the Finance Committee of this Council held

on 13th ulto. requested or directed the Reporter of the *Daily Press* and for the official Hansard report of the proceedings of this Council, to suppress any portion of the discussion on the subject of the Military Contribution which took place at said meeting, and if it was at his suggestion that a question put by me at that meeting with reference to the Military Contribution, the Honourable Member's reply thereto, and the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer's correction of an error into which the Honourable the Colonial Secretary had fallen in his reply, did not appear in the report of the meeting of the Finance Committee in any one of the three local newspapers and is not contained in the official Hansard report as sent round by the *Daily Press* to Honourable Members for revision.

THE CYPRER TELEGRAM: HIS EXCELLENCY EXPLAINS.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR—Before I submit the Estimates I wish to make a personal explanation. As there has been a great deal of misapprehension in regard to the cypher telegram which I forwarded to the Secretary of State I would remark that what I intended to say to him was that in case there was a deficit in the budget the Jubilee contribution would be made up by additional taxation and not by a loan. I am glad to say the Secretary of State read it in that light. Anybody knowing Mr. Chater must be aware that he could not make a promise of the nature which was ascribed to him and that I could not expect it or accept it because it would be impossible for him to fulfil it. Mr. Chater on that occasion was accompanied by Mr. Thomas Jackson and the Hon. Colonial Secretary, the other principal executive officers of the Jubilee Committee. I take upon myself the entire responsibility of the telegram. I wrote it myself, and I admit it was unfortunate and unintentionally misleading. I am very sorry I mentioned Mr. Chater's name at all, as it has had the result of bringing upon him some very vulgar and scurrilous abuse, which must, however, be regarded with contempt, not to say disgust, by all those in Hongkong whose opinions are worth having. (Hear, hear, and Applause.)

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR then delivered his speech as follows:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council.—I have much pleasure in laying upon the table the Estimates for 1898. These Estimates have been in your hands for the last fortnight. You have therefore had sufficient time to give them your careful attention, except in one important item which will necessitate a change in the figures of these Estimates.

Before proceeding to deal in detail with those points which call for special remark, it affords me satisfaction to announce that, in deference to the wishes of the shipping community, the charge for light dues has been reduced from 2½ cents to 1 cent per ton. Whilst I am glad to be able to redeem the promise of the Government in this matter, I would remind you that, if hereafter necessity should arise for increasing the revenue, it may be necessary to again raise the shipping charges. I trust that this contingency may not occur.

It gives me equal pleasure to inform you that notwithstanding the reduction of the light dues, which will involve a decrease of some \$70,000 in the receipts from this source, and the unprecedentedly low value of the dollar, taken at 1s. 9d., I do not propose to levy any additional taxation. The deficiency, if any, will be fully met by large receipts from land sales during the coming year, as well as by the increased value of the opium farm. The estimate in the first case is based upon the fact that the Government has a very valuable asset in Taipingshan, a large portion of which will almost certainly be recovered in 1898, as well as in valuable sites in other much-sought-after localities.

I would now invite your attention to the following points.

The revenue has been cautiously estimated, and is expected to amount to \$2,694,868 as against \$2,609,878 collected in 1896, or an estimated increase of \$84,990 on the total receipts for the latter year. The most noteworthy increases (in round numbers) are as follows:—
Opium monopoly, \$71,680
Assessed taxes, 57,700

Stamps,	11,500
Medical treatment in the Civil Hospital,	3,400
Official signatures,	2,500
Queen's College, fees from scholars,	3,500
Postage,	14,700
Leased lands,	17,700
Water account,	14,000

There are also minor increases under other headings, and two new items, viz:—

Certificates to Chinese entering America,	\$20,000
Interest,	3,000

The increase under the heading "Assessed Taxes" is expected in view of the prospective re-valuation of all rateable tenements, which will come into force from the 1st July next, and the number of new buildings nearing completion. The estimated increase in the receipts on water account is due to the additional revenue derived from the establishment of the new waterworks in Kowloon and elsewhere.

In 1896 there were no receipts on account of "Interest," the Government balances being exhausted by the expenditure incurred in connection with the resumption of Taipingshan, and in dealing with the plague epidemic during that year.

The principal items, which will probably show a falling off as compared with the receipts for 1896, are as follows:—

Light Dues,	\$72,000
Fines,	22,500
Junk licences,	4,600
Fees of Court,	2,000
Miscellaneous receipts,	5,000
Subsidiary coins,	10,000
Land sales,	15,800

in addition to other minor decreases.

The Government intends to adopt a bold policy in regard to the supply of subsidiary coins, and it is probable that, if the demand for them continues to be as brisk as it is at present, the result may be more gratifying than the estimated revenue from this source would lead me to conjecture. The Government is much indebted to the Chief Manager of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for his assistance and advice in connection with this subject. (Applause.)

As regards land sales, I should not be surprised if, for reasons which I have already stated, instead of falling short of the somewhat exceptional figures for 1896, the revenue from this source for 1898 actually exceeded the receipts for the former year.

The total estimated expenditure, including public works extraordinary, for 1898 amounts to \$2,770,706. Of this sum \$137,830 is chargeable to the Loan, leaving a balance of \$2,632,876 to be defrayed from current revenue. This gives an estimated surplus of revenue over expenditure of \$61,992. (Applause.) In estimating the expenditure the rate of exchange, for the purpose of sterling payments, has been taken at the low value of 1s. 9d.

The difference between the estimate of expenditure for 1898 and the total sum expended in 1896 is \$295,796. Of this increase no less than \$270,906 is on account of the more extensive programme for public works extraordinary which it is proposed to carry out in 1898, and which includes several works of pressing importance to the sanitary well-being of the colony and of a remunerative nature. Some of these are destined for the general benefit and convenience of the community. Amongst the latter I may mention the improvement of the Recreation Ground at Wongneichong, which will be partly paid for in 1898; the extension of the new road, known as Chamberlain Road, at the Peak; the extension of certain streets in Kowloon; and the proposed new road from Plantation Road to Magazine Gap. This road, whilst improving the means of communication between the Hill Districts, will open up several very desirable building sites for private residences.

You will, probably, have observed that no provision—I call the hon. Mr. Whitehead's attention to this part—has been made in the Estimates for the new Victoria Road, Victoria Hospital, and Nursing Institute, which are intended to commemorate the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign. This loyal community having subscribed \$98,000, the Government, in accordance with its promise, proposes to add a like sum. The Finance Committee will therefore be asked to-day to vote that amount. When the vote is passed it will be charged to the revenue for the current year.

The fund will then stand at the handsome total of over \$196,000, and it is proposed to draw upon it to defray the expenditure on those special works that may be incurred during 1898 and following years. It may interest you to know that I have applied for the services of three Sisters, who will be at the disposal of the community on fixed terms as soon as they arrive early next year. (Applause.)

Having explained the greater part of the estimated increase of expenditure for 1898 as compared with that incurred in 1896, it remains to point out the most noticeable increases under other heads, viz:—

Public debt,	\$48,970
Pensions,	26,950
Post Office,	23,500
Sanitary Department,	10,000
Public Works recurrent,	13,500

The increased expenditure on account of Public Debt is partly due to the contribution to the new sinking fund, which only commenced in October, 1896, and partly to the depreciation of the dollar. An increase for pensions is only to be expected as the colony grows older and the number of pensioners increases.

The increase for public works recurrent is explained by the general extension of works and the consequently increased cost of maintenance. The other increases are accounted for in the foot-notes contained in the estimates.

The following substantial decreases, on the other hand, as compared with the expenditure for 1896, should be recorded:—

Legal departments,	\$ 6,600
Magistracy,	3,200
Police and Gaol,	10,100
Miscellaneous services,	66,200
Military expenditure,	26,800

I have now, I think, dealt as fully as time permits with the Estimates for 1898 and any further information that may be desired will be furnished in Finance Committee.

As regards the financial prospects of the current year, you will observe that the revised estimate of revenue only amounts to \$2,446,065. The revised estimate of expenditure, on the other hand, is put at \$2,590,370, giving an estimated excess of expenditure over revenue of \$144,805. Since the revised estimate of revenue was prepared, the financial barometer has risen considerably and the depression, which was likely to affect the items "land sales" and "subsidiary coins," has disappeared. I have now good reason for stating that the revenue from land sales is almost certain to double the amount estimated, i.e., \$200,000 instead of \$100,000—(applause)—whilst if exchange maintains its present higher rate, it is not too much to expect a profit of 4½ per cent. from subsidiary coins, which, on the total consignments ordered for the year, should bring in some \$100,000 instead of \$65,000 as previously estimated. This disposes of \$135,000 of the anticipated excess, and the remaining \$9,805 is more than covered by the balance in hand at the end of 1896 (exclusive of loan monies) amounting to \$13,486. An estimated deficit of over \$144,000 will thus be converted into a surplus of \$3,686. I am hopeful of even a more favourable result. The prospect may, I think, be considered satisfactory, especially when it is borne in mind that over \$98,000 will have been contributed from current revenue to the Jubilee Fund, and that public works have by no means been neglected.

And here, gentlemen, I will briefly review the position of the colonial finances. At the time of my arrival the colony was reaping the inevitable results of over-speculation and labouring under the weight of severe financial depression. The outlook was anything but bright; business was dull, and the revenue suffered accordingly. On the other hand, there were public works of pressing importance to be carried on, e.g., the Praya Reclamation, the Central Market, the extension of the Gaol, and the water, drainage, and sewerage works. It was evident that the revenue was insufficient to meet the demands made upon it.

However, I awaited the financial results of my first year of administration; and those results, gentlemen, convinced me of the necessity of raising a loan, and if you will refer to my speech to this Council on the 25th January, 1892, you will recollect that I then approached you on the subject with an expression of regret that it should have fallen to my lot to make such a proposal to you in my first address.

Further experience of the situation and a study of the financial prospects for 1893 confirmed me in my opinion, and, in laying the Estimates on the 16th November, 1892, I definitely announced to you that a loan had become a necessity. You admitted that necessity, and in 1893 an inscribed stock loan of £200,000 at 3½ per cent. was negotiated by the Crown Agents. In the following year, the unredeemed balance of the 1887 loan, amounting to £140,000, was converted from 4 per cent. debentures into 3½ per cent. inscribed stock, and thus brought into conformity with the 1893 loan.

The Public Debt of the colony now stands at £341,599, the figures over and above the sum of £340,000 representing extra stock issued in connection with the expenses of conversion. Against this debt must be set the sum of £1,594, already contributed to the new sinking fund, and the unexpended balance of the loan which, on the 31st August last, stood at £43,139.

The relief afforded by the loan soon produced visible results. At the end of 1894, our balances in hand amounted to no less than \$450,000, and my early-expressed hopes seemed destined to be fulfilled. It was not, however, within the power of human foresight to contemplate the exceptional circumstances which intervened at this juncture, and which absorbed the entire amount of our credit balances. The plague of 1894 and its recrudescence in 1896 has cost this colony—directly and indirectly—nearly \$1,200,000, not to mention the large increase in the cost of the Sanitary Department, and the expenditure on various sanitary improvements. Then again, the dollar has depreciated in value nearly 100 per cent., and our sterling payments have increased proportionately. It was not therefore a matter for surprise that at the end of 1895 our balances of \$450,000, in addition to the ordinary surplus for the year, had been wholly expended, and that a debit balance of \$171,908 was carried forward to the 1896 account. It is, however, a matter for congratulation that that debit balance was wiped out during the year, and that at the beginning of 1897 a balance of \$13,400 stood to our credit, and that, notwithstanding the Government contribution to the Jubilee Fund, there is every reasonable prospect of the accounts for the year 1898 opening with a balance on the right side. (Applause.)

And now, gentlemen, my statement in regard to the financial position has been necessarily somewhat long, but it will, I venture to hope, be regarded as most satisfactory taking into consideration all the opposing circumstances to which I have referred. I have endeavoured to fulfil my promises to avoid all "harassing and embarrassing" legislation, and to effect economy. The fulfilment of the former will be recognised in the way in which the estimate of revenue for 1898 has been framed, and of the latter in the retrenchment which has been generally effected throughout the Service. I think it right, however, to state that, in my opinion, certain posts in the Civil Service are insufficiently paid, especially when compared with similar appointments in other colonies. I trust it will be possible to remedy this defect, and thus retain in Hongkong the services of experienced officers who might otherwise accept a transfer to colonies where they would be more highly remunerated.

While on this subject I desire to avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge the great assistance I have received during my government from all branches of the Civil Service, and to express my appreciation of the loyal manner in which they have co-operated with me in furthering the interests of the colony.

I have every reason to adhere to my confidence in the resources of Hongkong and its financial soundness. A handsome advance has been secured on the price at present paid for the opium farm—I may say it is increased from \$286,000 to \$372,000—and I wish I could look forward with equal certainty to a rise in the sterling value of the dollar.

As regards the events of the year, with one exception to which I shall refer later, there is but little to record. The Captain Superintendent of Police reports a period of comparative peace. There are, however, two noteworthy items of "Police news" to which I may refer. The first is the placing of district watchmen on police beats under the supervision of Europeans

between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m., thus reinforcing the police by forty auxiliaries of a very useful stamp.

The arrangement has so far worked satisfactorily, and it is hoped that the additional protection thus afforded will tend to reduce the number of armed gang robberies, which are only too frequent in the winter months. The other innovation is the withdrawal of the Night Pass and Light Regulations. Night passes were first introduced in 1857, when, no doubt, good reasons existed for such a stringent measure. In this present year of grace, however, such restrictions cannot but be regarded as a relic of a barbarous past and inconsistent, in these enlightened times, with the liberty of the subject. Results have justified the repeal of these regulations, and I am sure the relief has been fully appreciated by the respectable Chinese. (Applause.)

And here I must refer with great regret to the grave irregularities which have recently been shown to exist in the Police Force and in other departments of the Government Service amongst the subordinate officers. You are aware of the action taken by the Government in this matter, and I believe that it has been guided to a proper course. I fear there can be no doubt that these irregularities have been in existence for very many years. That they have now been brought to light, and that stringent measures have been taken to put an end to them must ultimately conduce to a better state of things in the future.

As regards the public health, I can give you an exceptionally favourable report, which may, to some extent, compensate for the large amount of sanitary legislation which has of late years fallen upon us. There have been only 17 cases of plague during the year, several of which are said to have been imported from the mainland. This is very satisfactory when it is remembered that the disease was prevalent in the neighbouring ports of Amoy and Swatow, and in the island of Formosa for several months. The comparative immunity from plague enjoyed by Hongkong during 1897 may be due to the improved sanitary condition of the colony and the increased vigilance of the Sanitary Board.

The death rate of the British and foreign community for the first nine months of the year is 21.5 per thousand as compared with 23.6 for the corresponding period of 1896. The death rate amongst the Chinese community for the like periods has been reduced from 26.9 per 1,000 to 18.9 per 1,000. This represents an annual saving of nearly 2,000 Chinese lives and about 17 European.

The main drainage has been, practically, completely re-modelled. Thirty-six miles of sewers have been laid, not including the drains constructed in connection with the re-drainage of houses, which would nearly double those figures. I am informed that Victoria may now be regarded as one of the best drained cities east of Suez—(applause)—and that its domestic sanitation will compare favourably with that of any of the large cities in England.

Bye-laws have been made for the compulsory concreting of ground floors in dwellings, for the prevention of overcrowding, for the regulation of bake-houses, laundries, opium-smoking divans, offensive trades, and animal depots, for the regular periodical cleansing of tenement dwellings, and for the notification of communicable diseases, and these are being quietly and steadily enforced.

The New Central Market, the slaughter-houses and adjoining cattle depots at Kennedy Town and Kowloon, which have an important bearing on the food supply of the colony, have been completed during my administration, whilst the water supply, which is of vital importance to the health of the community, has been increased to 400,000,000 gallons, and extended to the Kowloon Peninsula and to the populous villages of Shauiwan and Aberdeen.

The most noticeable features in the history of education during my term of office have been—(1) the revision of the Grant-in-Aid Code in 1893, which added arithmetic to the subjects for which grants should be given to schools giving a purely Chinese education, elementary science in the case of schools giving a European education in the Chinese language, and a seventh standard in all classes of schools. (2) The graduating of two pupils in July, 1892, from the Chinese College of Medicine, being the first two graduates from that Institution. (3) The

opening of the Belilios Public School for Girls in December, 1893, for which we have to thank the generosity of an honourable member of this Council; and (4) The limitation in November, 1895, of grants-in-aid to schools giving a European education in the English language—a measure which was induced by the very marked deficiency in this respect on the part of the Chinese community resident in this colony, and the necessity recognised from the experiences of 1894 of providing a more enlightened education. I trust that this policy will be maintained, and that a training institution, which will furnish a supply of qualified teachers and so place the means of acquiring a useful knowledge of the English language and Western ideas within the reach of the poorer classes of the Chinese community, may be provided. I consider that such expenditure will be incurred in a most important cause, and I commend to the notice of the Council the desirability of increasing the Grant-in-Aid Vote, and of continuing to substitute subsidised schools for the Government schools that still remain in existence.

As regards the attendance at the various educational establishments in the colony, I regret to say that the check experienced in 1894 on account of the plague has been more permanent in its results than was originally anticipated, and recovery has been further impeded by its recrudescence in 1896. I hope that, given favourable circumstances, the progress in this direction, which was so noticeable during the first three years of my term of office, may again make itself evident at an early date, and that education will receive that support which it so fully deserves.

The shipping returns, though not attaining to the figures of 1896, are, nevertheless, quite satisfactory. During the nine months ended on the 30th September, 7,108 vessels of European construction, aggregating nearly 9,000,000 tons register, entered and cleared at the Harbour Office. The increase of shipping under foreign flags (principally German and Japanese) has been very noticeable, but 68 per cent. of the total tonnage, and 56 per cent. of the ocean-going tonnage alone was British. These ships carried, in and through our waters, about 5½ million tons of cargo and bunker coal, and over a million passengers. As might be expected, junks followed the European shipping, and the figures do not come up to those for the corresponding period of last year.

There is no reason, however, for assuming that the falling off is anything but temporary, and it can in a large measure be traced to a short rice crop in the period under review, during which 430,000 tons less were reported than in the same period of 1896.

The commercial progress of the colony during the last five years is very marked. The tonnage, which is always a more or less reliable indication, has increased by 2,510,255 tons, whilst the value of the transit trade has improved to the extent of 28,933,788 Haikwan taels, or nearly £5,000,000 sterling. No less remarkable is the development of local industries, of which, believing in the policy of independence, I have always been a warm supporter. The establishment of two large kerosene oil depôts, feather-dressing and match factories, soap, coal briquette and rattan works, the extensions of the docks, the large sugar refineries, the rope and cement works, are standing monuments of that development, whilst the spirit of local enterprise is again evident in the recent formation of a public company for the establishment of cotton mills in Hongkong.

I am particularly gratified at this latest movement. It is nearly four years since I first made the suggestion to you in this Council and promised my co-operation so far as the acquisition of land was concerned. It is nearly two years since I repeated the suggestion and renewed my promise. I trust that whilst you have given practical effect to the former, I have not failed in my fulfilment of the latter. (Applause.)

It remains to mention one other event of great importance to the trade of this colony, viz., the opening of the West River ports to foreign trade on the 3rd June last. You will recollect that in my address to you of the 25th November, 1895, I assured you that although for a time, at least, local interests might neces-

sarily be postponed in favour of purely Imperial interests, this question had by no means been lost sight of.

I was justified in making that statement, and it affords me much pleasure to have witnessed before my departure the accomplishment of this object. When communication has been satisfactorily established between Hongkong and the West River ports, this colony will, doubtless, share to the fullest extent in the harvest to be reaped from those additional fields for commercial enterprise.

My relations with the Chinese community of this colony have always been of the most cordial nature. I have had no reason to change my earliest-formed impression of their industrious, peaceful, and law-abiding qualities. On the other hand, I have had every reason to adhere to my original promise that they would find in me not only a Governor but also a friend. And if on one or two occasions I have had to disguise my good intentions under the cloak of official authority, I have on such occasions endeavoured to combine firmness with consideration for their feelings and national customs. (Applause.) My object has always been to promote their welfare and secure their best interests.

In proof of the sincerity of these professions, if any such proof is required, I would refer to the concessions granted during the plague epidemic of 1894 under circumstances which involved a very large degree of responsibility. I would also mention the support accorded by the Government to the Po Leung Kuk, which has enabled that charitable Society to erect a new home, which I opened in person, and to continue its beneficial work under more favourable circumstances. Great improvements have also been effected in the administration and sanitary condition of the Tung Wa Hospital, the benefits of which are already evident and are daily becoming more appreciated by the native community.

I have already referred to the modification of the Light and Pass Regulations which prove to have been an unnecessary restriction. And if any further illustration is needed of my regard for the interests of the Chinese, I would mention the additional representation on this Council recently accorded to them at my suggestion. (Applause.)

And here I desire to express my indebtedness to the Registrar General, whose knowledge of the Chinese characteristics and of the language, and whose advice in all matters relating to their interests has always been of the greatest assistance to me.

I cannot conclude my remarks without reference to that unique occasion in the annals of our national history which has recently been celebrated throughout the vast British Empire. I mean, of course, the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's beneficent reign.

It is impossible to appreciate adequately or relatively the enthusiastic expressions of loyalty, respect, and devotion towards our beloved Queen-Empress which that commemoration called forth from countless millions of British subjects throughout the world; but I venture to state that in no other corner of British territory were those expressions more spontaneous and sincere in their utterance, or more practical proof of their sincerity furnished, than in this remote colony of Hongkong. (Applause.)

Gentlemen, I am proud of the loyalty of this community; and it will always be a pleasing reminiscence of my life that I had the privilege of representing our august Sovereign in Hongkong on that occasion. I trust, gentlemen, that you will continue to co-operate with the Imperial Government for the defence and maintenance of that immense Empire, of which this colony is a small but not unimportant part.

In conclusion, I have to thank you for your very patient hearing. I have endeavoured to illustrate, in the course of my remarks, a marked progress during the last six years—financial, commercial, industrial, and social—a progress upon which the Secretary of State for the Colonies in a recent despatch was pleased to comment in favourable terms, and which the result of a comparison between the Hongkong of 1891 and the Hongkong of to-day places beyond all doubt.

I appreciate the enterprising spirit of the community which has contributed to that result,

and I trust that I have not failed in the fulfilment of my desire to encourage that spirit and to promote that enterprise. (Applause.)

I thank you, gentlemen, for your co-operation in the past, and I rely on a continuance of your loyal support and valuable assistance during the remainder of my term of office. It is a source of gratification to me that I have been connected with this colony during a period of prosperity. I need hardly say that I contemplate my approaching departure with regret, and whilst I feel assured that I shall take away with me an expression of your good-will, I trust that I may also have gained, in some degree, the confidence and respect of the entire community. (Applause.)

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Sir, I need hardly say that we have one and all listened with the greatest possible pleasure to the remarks you have been pleased to make in regard to the Estimates and the financial position of the colony, and after those remarks have been digested by my unofficial colleagues they will, if necessary, be commented upon as opportunity offers.

COMMITTEES.

His Excellency then named the Committees for the ensuing year.

FIRST READING OF BILLS.

The following Bills were read a first time:—

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to apply a sum of not exceeding two millions three hundred and forty-three thousand seven hundred and thirty dollars to the Public Service of the year 1898.

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Chinese Extradition Ordinance, 1889.

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the construction of Ordinances, to further shorten the language used in Ordinances, and for other like purposes.

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend the Waterworks Ordinance, 1890.

A Bill entitled An Ordinance for the naturalization of U Hoi Chan alias U Chiu Tsun.

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the Closed Houses and Insanitary Dwellings Ordinance, 1894.

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to amend the law relating to vagrants.

THE KOWLOON TRAMWAYS ORDINANCE.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING—Sir, I have the honour to move the second reading of the bill entitled An Ordinance to authorise the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, to lay and maintain Tramways on certain public roads at Kowloon, in the colony of Hongkong, and to confer upon the said Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, certain other rights, powers, and privileges. I think, sir, it is not necessary for me to say more than that the objects of this Bill are to facilitate the more rapid discharge of vessels making use of the wharves at Kowloon and also to effect some economy in the working expenses of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited, the shares of which public company are largely held by European and Chinese residents in this colony. I understand that the former Director of Public Works offered no objection to rails being laid on the public roads adjoining the wharves, and you will observe, sir, on reference to the Bill, that in the event of the rails being in any way a nuisance the Government reserves to itself the right of having them removed.

Hon. C. P. CHATER seconded.

Bill read a second time.

Council went into Committee on the Bill.

Bill passed through Committee, read a third time, and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned until next Monday.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held. Hon. J. H. Stewart Lookhart (Colonial Secretary) presided and all the members were present.

VOTES RECOMMENDED.

The following votes were recommended without discussion:—

\$3,000 in aid of the vote "Expenses for Volunteers."

The following sums to meet certain expenses in the Police Department:—For Clothing and Accoutrements, \$4,500; for Bedding, Mess Utensils, &c., \$750; for Incidental Expenses, \$1,400; for Conveyance of Police Pensioners, &c., \$1,000; for Secret Service, \$400. Total, \$8,050.

\$98,892 28, being the Government contribution towards the Jubilee Fund.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Committee then adjourned.

SUPREME COURT.

20th October.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE DAIRY FARM CASE.

Li Kun, clerk in the Dairy Farm Company, Limited, was charged under four counts with embezzling the sum of \$5 and 30 cents on the 23rd and 24th September, and omitting to enter the same in the book kept for that purpose.

Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General) instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. C. Ewens), defended.

The following jury was empanelled—Messrs. C. Plate, Chan Choy, J. I. Andrew, L. P. Sequairs, F. Lieb, Shi Yu Man, and P. A. Cox. The jury found the prisoner not guilty and he was discharged.

21st October.

DEMANDING MONEY WITH MENACES.

Sui Tsak Shan and his son, Sui Ping, were charged with causing a threatening letter to be received by the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police, demanding money with menaces. They were also charged with feloniously uttering the letter on the 13th August.

Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted. The prisoners, who pleaded not guilty, were not defended.

The jurors were—Messrs. W. Taylor, A. S. Mahomed, A. M. Baptista, A. Rombach, E. E. Hill, J. H. Jessen, and A. J. V. Ribeiro.

The Attorney-General explained that on the 13th August Mr. May received a letter addressed "The Captain Superintendent of Police." The letter was as follows—"This writing is to inform the Head of the Green Coats (Generous Brother) I am very glad that your source of wealth has been greatly enlarged. Now your junior is in great need of money. You must not decline. Send \$10,000 to your junior's place. Arrangements will then be made with you to secure your happiness. If you disappoint me I will certainly raze your household to the ground. Generous Brother, your life will not be endangered. Please decide. Do not say no warning has been given." The letter concluded by asking Mr. May to pay the money to the carpenter on board the *Chelydra* and it was chopped with the name of the elder prisoner. On the 28th September Detective Sergeant Scott went to 18, Chinese Street, where the prisoners lived, to search for forged bank notes. When he got there the elder man picked up a waistcoat, rolled it up, and was apparently about to throw it through the window when Scott seized him and found in his hand a chop which was identical with the impression of the chop on the letter. The man was arrested. When he was before the Magistrate the younger prisoner was seen in court. He was taken to the Police Station, where he wrote a letter to his father. The characters in this letter were like those in the letter which Mr. May received, and the Crown suggested that the letter was written by the younger prisoner at the dictation of his father and chopped with the chop found in the house.

Evidence having been called His Lordship summed up.

The jury, by a majority of five to two, found the prisoners guilty.

The elder prisoner was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for having a forged note in his possession—the charge on which he was

convicted on Monday—and to two and a half years' imprisonment for the second offence, the latter sentence to take effect after the expiration of the former. The younger prisoner was sent to gaol for six months.

A MEAN TRICK.

Fred Kielman was charged with obtaining \$15 by means of false pretences.

Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted, and the prisoner was undefended.

Prisoner, who is a German, pleaded not guilty. Mr. G. P. Lammert acted as interpreter.

The following jury was empanelled.—Messrs. J. Edwardes, R. R. Roberts, A. Howard, H. E. Oldorf, G. Eckley, E. W. Terry, and H. J. M. de Figueiredo.

The case for the Crown was that at 7 p.m. on the 21st September, the defendant, who had been admitted a few days previously into the Sailors' Home at the request of the German Consul, and who pretended to be a shipwrecked sailor from Singapore, showed Mr. Percy Harman, the assistant superintendent of the Home, a document purporting to be an order drawn on the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation for \$15, and asked him for a loan of \$15 for a day or two, when the order would be cashed. Mr. Harman, thinking the document to be a genuine one, advanced him the money and made him write an I. O. U. for the amount. As a matter of fact no bill had been drawn on the Bank in favour of the defendant, so the document he produced was false.

The defendant, when asked what he had to say in defence, made the following extraordinary statement.—I was a sailor on a ship that got wrecked in the Java Sea several months ago. When we arrived at Sourabaya the German Consul there gave each of us a draft on the owners of the ship in Germany for whatever amount was due to us as wages. I told him I had no intention of returning to Germany and requested to be sent on to Adelaide, where I have a wife. The Consul did not comply with my request, and I sent the draft to Germany to have it exchanged for one on Hongkong. I then proceeded to Singapore and stayed there for a time. I worked any passage here on the German Lloyd steamer *Bayern* and upon arrival called at the Post Office and found a letter awaiting me there in which was enclosed an order on the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation for \$15. I showed this to Mr. Harman, the assistant superintendent of the Sailors' Home, in which I was admitted an inmate by order of the German Consul, and asked him to lend me \$15. I promised to repay him the amount when I cashed the cheque. When, on the following day, I presented the order at the Bank, I was told I could not be paid on it as there was an inaccuracy and I must send it back to be rectified. On my return to the Sailor's Home I met Mr. Harman, who pressed me for the money I owed him, and even threatened to have me arrested unless it was instantly repaid. I got so frightened at the threat that I immediately left for Chinese Kowloon and trudged along for quite a long way. At length I came to a telegraph station when, faint and completely worn out, I was forced to apply to the people there for assistance. I was informed I had got over about half the distance to Canton, and I then requested to be directed to that town. When I reached Canton I told the German Consul there I had run away from a French ship, and he sent me back to Hongkong with \$3. Remembering the threat made by Mr. Harman I did not dare to remain here, and elected to go to Macao where unfortunately I could find no employment owing to my not being able to speak either English or Portuguese. Being by this time at the end of my resources, I was forced to come back to this place, and was arrested. I have to state in palliation of my fault, if fault there be, that I was altogether unaware the document was not a genuine one till I showed it at the Bank.

His Lordship then summed up, and the jury, without retiring, returned an unanimous verdict of guilty.

His Lordship, in passing sentence, said the defendant had been guilty of a very mean trick and he tried to defend himself by telling a lot of shameful falsehoods. If he had put forward a fairer and more honest defence he would

have been dealt with more easily. As it was he would have to go to gaol for nine months with hard labour.

The Attorney-General said there was another similar case against the defendant, but this would not be proceeded with. Counsel also mentioned that defendant was at the present time undergoing a sentence of six months for a theft committed in a house in Gage Street.

His Lordship said that the sentence he had passed would take effect at the end of the six months.

22nd October.

COLLAPSE OF A CASE.

Three men were charged with robbing a man of \$40.20 with violence.

Hon. W. M. Goodman (Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted. The prisoners, who were undefended, pleaded not guilty.

The jurors were Messrs. H. A. do Rozario, E. E. Hill, A. Howard, F. Lieb, A. J. V. Ribeiro, H. J. M. de Figueiredo, and A. H. Skelton.

The Attorney-General explained that the prosecutor lived in a village near Kowloon City and it was his custom to come to Hongkong from time to time for the purpose of buying provisions. On the 22nd September he left his village with the intention of going to Yau-mati to take a launch for Hongkong. He spent the night in Kowloon City and on the following morning proceeded on his way to Hongkong. When near the boundary fence he was accosted by three men, one of whom said he was an excise officer. He then expressed his intention of searching the prosecutor for opium. No opium was found, but the men took \$40.20 from the prosecutor, who endeavoured to get back his money. He was then stabbed three times in the abdomen and was seriously injured. The occurrence was reported to the police and the prosecutor was afterwards found in Kowloon City. His wounds were bandaged and he was conveyed to the Government Civil Hospital. Later a knife was found near to the scene of the occurrence and the prisoners were afterwards arrested.

The prosecutor then gave evidence. At the Magistrate's he said the prisoners were three men who attacked him, but he told his Lordship that he was now not able to identify them. The case therefore broke down and the jury were directed by His Lordship to return a verdict of not guilty. The prisoners were thereupon discharged.

This concluded the business of the Sessions.

THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

The Benevolent Society's concert is now looked upon as the opening of the musical season in Hongkong. This is a most appropriate beginning. The laudable objects of the Society richly merit the cordial support and sympathy of the public, and it is only right that charity should command the first attention of the community. The concert had to be postponed twice owing to unfavourable weather, but we question whether the Society suffered financially as a consequence. It is probable that more people assembled at the Volunteer Headquarters on Tuesday night (19th Oct.) than would have been the case had the concert been held on either of the two previously arranged days, as while the Volunteers were in camp they naturally attracted a considerable number of friends over to Stonecutters' Island, whereas on Tuesday there was no counter-attraction. So after all the forced postponements were perhaps more beneficial than disastrous. There was a very large attendance on the Volunteer Parade Ground, which is undoubtedly the most suitable site in the colony for a promenade concert. Strings of red and white lamps encircled the enclosure and made the scene a very bright one, while the stage, which was erected in front of the headquarters, was also decorated with flags and lamps.

The concert was a conspicuous success, and, thanks to the untiring efforts of Mr. C. H. Grace, an excellent programme of music was presented. The band of the West Yorkshire Regiment, whose services were kindly lent by Lieut-Colonel Gordon and the Officers

of the Regiment, opened the proceedings with Ganne's march "Père la Victoire," which was loudly applauded. A quartette entitled "A Sad Disappointment" was the next item, and this was rendered by Messrs. Mirow, Hill, Grace, and Barrett in excellent style, the voices blending well together and in good time. The Band then played Gounod's "Faust" in masterly fashion and their efforts were promptly and enthusiastically applauded. Mr. A. C. Van Nierop next claimed attention with the song "Oh! How I love thee." Mr. Van Nierop was in grand voice and he had to respond to a hearty demand for an encore. A piccolo duet, "Les oiseaux de Passage," gave Corporal Harper and Musician Lytton an excellent opportunity for displaying their ability, and their performance was most realistic and had to be repeated. A very pretty quartette entitled "The Evening Bell" was the next contribution. Musician Seaborne following with a serenade on the cornet, which was also encored, Mr. C. H. Grace can always rely upon a warm reception and his rendering of "The song of Hybrias the Cretan" fully justified the applause which greeted his appearance on the stage. The first part of the programme concluded with Chopin's Valse Brillante (Op. 18) by the Band. After a short interval the audience settled down to listen to the second part of the programme, which consisted entirely of the grand military potpourri, "The Battle of Waterloo." This very fine descriptive piece has been previously given in Hongkong by the Regimental Band, but it will always bear repetition, and on this present occasion the audience immensely enjoyed this musical treat. The Band was under the conductorship of Mr. W. G. Bentley, A.R.C.M., who also scored the accompaniments for the songs in the first part of the programme, while the quartettes were prepared under the leadership of Mr. A. G. Ward.

THE LOSS OF THE "NAMOA."

FINDING OF THE MARINE COURT OF INQUIRY.

On 20th Oct. the Marine Court of Inquiry resumed its inquiry at the Harbour Master's Office respecting the circumstances attending the loss of the British steamer *Namoa*, of which Mr. T. P. Hall was the master, in the Haitian Straits on the 3rd October.

The Court consisted of Hon. Commander R. Murray Rumsey, R. N. (President), Staff Commander C. R. H. Robinson, R. N., H.M.S. *Tamar*; Captain Pybus R.N.R., *Empress of India*; Captain W. H. Watton, *Phru Nang* and Captain E. J. Buller, *Chunsang*.

W. F. McIntosh, the chief engineer, said—I hold a chief engineer's certificate issued at Glasgow and have been on the *Namoa* thirteen years, all the time as chief engineer. I was in my room when the ship struck and I at once went on deck and on going forward I saw the carpenter sounding the bell. I looked over the bows and saw that she was settling by the head. I went aft and shouted to the captain that the vessel was going down by the head. He told me to get the pumps on. The second engineer had already put a man to do this. I told the second engineer that it appeared likely the ship would go down and told him to go to his room if there was anything there he wished to save and I would watch below. The second engineer went away and returned shortly afterwards. I remained below till the ship struck a second time. I went on deck after the engines had been put astern and then stopped. While I was below the ballast pump was put in the forehold and it worked satisfactorily. It was set going two or three minutes after the ship struck. It can pump from 70 to 80 tons an hour and was kept working at that rate until I left the engine room. This was the only pump in that part of the ship. There was no connection with the bilge injection outside the engine room. Owing to the weight of water in the forehold the propeller was right out of the water, and the ship was so far down by the head that no connection could be made with the bilge injection by means of the sluices. I went ashore in the last boat with the captain. We made for what appeared to be the best place to land. To me it seemed safer to run the waterlogged

October 27, 1897.]

CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

boat through the surf than to keep her in the open sea. The carpenter and one woman were lost from the boat. When the boat capsized I held on and was washed ashore.

A Malay quartermaster was then called and said he was not told what boat he had to go to in case the boats had to be manned. A second quartermaster, who was also called into the Court, said he had his proper boat. When the ship struck all the men went to their respective boats.

Captain Hall was then re-called. He said—When the ship struck her way was not stopped. I cannot say if the water was before the collision bulkhead. A few minutes before the ship was beached I saw the water over the main deck and the hawse rail must have been about level with the water. The bodies I saw on the beach had no lifebelts on; the belts may have been taken from them before they arrived.

The President—It is not likely the villagers would take the belts away when there were live Chinamen about.

Witness—The belts may have been washed off.

Witness then made the following statement—Yesterday I made a statement about the engineers and firemen being anxious to get away from the ship. I wish to correct an impression that statement might have caused. The engineers and firemen were no more anxious to get away than any other members of the crew; they remained on board as long as they could and behaved exceedingly well.

This concluded the evidence.

The following was the finding of the Court:—We find that the steamship *Namoa*, official number 65,090, of which Thomas Phillip Hall, whose certificate of competency is 24357, was master, left Amoy on a voyage to Foochow with a general cargo at 4.45 p.m. on the 2nd October. That the crew consisted of forty-five all told on the articles; that there were twenty-three passengers on board, of whom twenty were native steerage passengers; and that in addition there were nine Chinese on board who were engaged for services on board the ship, but who were not on the articles. That after leaving Amoy a fresh monsoon was encountered and the Captain decided to keep close along the land and in consequence proceeded by way of the Haitan Straits and Fairway Passage, which course, the Court is informed, he had frequently before followed. That at about 10 a.m. on the 3rd October the ship struck when in a position which cannot be definitely given as no bearings were taken, nor were the log books or chart saved from the ship, but this position was probably somewhere about three to five cables W.N.W. of Brown Rock. That after striking the ship was headed for the land and about half an hour after was beached about 800 yards from the shore. That at this time the weather was fair with a fresh N.E. monsoon and moderate sea. That the boats had been made ready directly after the ship first struck and that as soon as she was beached all hands were got into the boats and left the ship. That unfortunately the landing was not accomplished without loss of life. The boats went through a surf in which all of them came to grief, and seven passengers, the carpenter, and three of the crew were drowned. We are of opinion that the ship was properly found and fully manned and was navigated in a sufficiently seamanlike and proper manner, and that the master was justified in taking a course between the Cow's Horn Point and Fairway Island, and that the rock on which she is supposed to have struck is not marked on the chart which was in use (Admiralty No. 1985), and appears to have been an isolated rock of which no break or other warning was given. That the steps taken to beach the ship were, under the circumstances, justifiable. That the captain committed an error of judgment in selecting the spot to land. As we do not find that the loss of the ship was caused by the master's wrongful act or default his certificate is not dealt with.

Given under our hands at Victoria, Hong-kong, this 20th day of October, 1897.

C. R. H. ROBINSON, Staff
Commander, R.N.

HENRY PYBUS, Lieut. R.N.R.,
Commander R.M. Steamer
Empress of China.

EDWARD JAMES BULLER,
Master, s.s. *Chunsaung*.

W. H. WATTON,
Master, s.s. *Phra Nang*.

The following rider was appended by the President:—

I agree with the above finding in general, but I desire to record the dissatisfaction with which I view the following facts relating to the doings on board subsequent to the ship being beached, in which the other members of the Court do not concur. First, as to the loss of logs, charts, &c. The ship was fully manned and officered for a ship of her size, and we have it in evidence that she was equipped in accordance with the Board of Trade Regulations, which are generally considered sufficient. I am also led to infer that a proper state of discipline was maintained on board. Yet, although there were only twenty-two persons on board who were not part of the ship's company, the master states that he was himself so much engaged in superintending the preparation for leaving the ship that he had no time to save his charts, logs, etc. Next as to the loss of life. The ship was hard and fast beached within a short distance of the shore. It was 10 a.m. in the day. All the boats got away with the entire crew and passengers and no boat need have been overloaded. But they were taken, presumably by the Captain's orders and at any rate without his endeavouring to prevent it, through a surf, which could be seen from the ship, in preference to removing further to leeward to look for a less dangerous landing. As a consequence all the boats were either capsized or swamped and in all eleven lives were lost out of a total of seventy-seven who left the ship.

R. MURRAY RUMSEY,
Retired Commander, R.N.
President.

THE PUBLIC WORKS REPORT.

The report of Mr. W. Chatham, recently Acting Director of Public Works, on the progress of Public Works during the half-year ending 30th June, 1897, was laid before the Legislative Council yesterday. We make the following extracts:—

ANNUALLY RECURRENT WORKS.

Repairs to Buildings.—A very considerable amount of work has been entailed under this heading on account of the ravages of white ants. Wherever practicable, the use of timber is being dispensed with, and repairs are being effected in such a manner as to avoid a repetition of the damage by these destructive insects in future.

Maintenance of Telegraphs.—A line has been constructed from the Police Station at Victoria Gap to the summer quarters of the Captain Superintendent of Police, which puts this residence in communication with the Central Police Station. Four lines have been renewed between the Telegraph Companies' Office and the Central Police Station.

Maintenance of Public Cemetery.—The Cemetery has been maintained in a satisfactory condition. The concreting of the paths and construction of steps leading to terraces laid out within recent years is in progress.

Maintenance of Praya Wall and Piers.—A matshed shelter has been constructed at Wardley Street Wharf with the view of inducing some of the numerous parties which go afloat in the summer evenings to make use of this wharf and so relieve the traffic at Pedder's Wharf. The pier and shelters at Tsimshatsui are undergoing general repairs.

Maintenance of Lighthouses.—Gap Rock Lighthouse has been painted and colour-washed and similar work is in progress at Green Island.

Dredging Foreshores.—The dredger has been employed in connection with the Praya Reclamation Works except for a period of 7 weeks when engaged at the Kowloon Wharves performing some dredging for the Godown Company.

Maintenance of Roads and Bridges in Victoria.—The roads generally have been maintained in a satisfactory condition except that portion of the Praya where the Reclamation Works are in progress, and the roadway is undergoing alteration both as regards width and level. Jubilee and Queen Victoria Streets have been laid with concrete so as to avoid the frequent repairs which were necessitated with macadamized surfaces owing to the somewhat steep gradient of portions of these streets.

Maintenance of Roads and Bridges out of Victoria.—A considerable amount of work has been performed under this heading. The following roads have been re-surfaced:—Shaokwan to Stanley, Stanley to Deep Water Bay for a length of two miles, Wongneichong to Tytam, Bowen Road to Magazine Gap, Queen's Road to Wanchai Gap, Victoria Gap to Pokfulam, Wanchai Gap to Aberdeen, New Aberdeen Road.

In addition to the above, the road from the city to Pokfulam has been blinded for nearly the whole distance.

Maintenance of Roads and Bridges in Kowloon.—The principal roads have been re-surfaced and the roads generally throughout the Peninsula have been maintained in good condition. Communication has been largely developed by the construction of proper roads in Kowloon, and it is now possible to traverse the greater part of the Peninsula by ricksha, a performance which was quite impossible four or five years ago.

Maintenance of Waterworks, City of Victoria and Hill District.—It is satisfactory to be able to record that a constant supply of filtered water has been maintained to the City and Hill District during the past dry season, in consequence of the extensions to the Tytam Waterworks which have already been carried out. The catchwater round Mount Parker has proved to be a valuable auxiliary to the supply.

Maintenance of Waterworks, Kowloon.—The supply in this case has also been constant and the works already carried out have so far proved sufficient, though the demand is rapidly overtaking the supply.

Maintenance of Waterworks, Shaokwan.—This is a new feature in the reports of this Department and affords another indication of the improved state of affairs which is gradually being introduced in the villages. The supply of water from fountains was begun during the month of June, 1896.

Maintenance of Waterworks, Aberdeen.—The same remarks apply in this case also, though some works of a limited nature existed formerly, having been undertaken when the Paper Mills Reservoir was constructed in 1893. The supply has now been placed on a more satisfactory footing, filter beds and a service reservoir have been constructed and the works have been extended so as to bring the water within easy access of all the inhabitants of the village.

Maintenance of Sewers.—The sewers have been maintained in a satisfactory condition both in the city and in the various districts and villages where sewerage systems have been introduced.

Lighting of City of Victoria and Kowloon.—The contracts with the Gas and Electric Companies have been satisfactorily carried out. A considerable number of the gas lamps have been fitted with incandescent burners, effecting a marked improvement in the lighting of the neighbourhoods where this has been done. A new contract has been entered into with the Gas Company for a period of five years, commencing from the 1st July, 1897.

Maintenance of Public Recreation Ground.—The ground has been maintained in good order.

Clock Tower.—The necessary repairs have been made and the clock has been maintained in good order.

WORK UNDER THE BUILDING ORDINANCE.

Plans Deposited.—Plans have been deposited to the number of 183; 5 for European dwellings, 41 for Chinese houses, and 137 for miscellaneous structures.

Certificates Granted.—Certificates have been granted under section 53 of Ordinance 15 of 1889 for 201 houses and permission has been given for the erection of 33 verandahs and 7 piers over Crown land or foreshore.

Permits and Notices.—Notices relating to structures in a dangerous condition have been served in 7 cases; 1,262 notices and permits of a miscellaneous nature have been issued; and 35 permits have been granted for the erection and repair of monuments and enclosures in the Colonial Cemetery. The fees received for the latter amount to \$40.83.

EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC WORKS.

Improvements, Recreation Ground, Happy Valley.—The additional area forming an extension of the Recreation Ground has been levelled

off in readiness for turfing. The diversion of the nullah will be undertaken towards the end of the wet season, by which time it is hoped that certain ironwork required for the bridges crossing the nullah will have arrived from England. Meanwhile, the turfing of the portion to the east of the existing nullah will be undertaken, so as to render the ground available during the coming cool season.

Slaughter-House, Sheep and Pig Depots, including Pier.—The pier constructed for the landing of cattle, sheep, and pigs arriving at the depots, has been completed.

Gaol Extension.—Various minor works have been undertaken at the old Gaol.

New Water Mains.—Small extensions only have been made to the water mains in the city.

Sewerage of Victoria.—The works under this heading comprise the connections of house drains to the public sewers and small extensions of the latter to provide for such connections.

Water Supply, Kowloon.—Payment of the balance due under the contract for the construction of the Pumping Station Buildings was delayed until this year, owing to some action at law against the contractor, otherwise there has been practically no expenditure under this heading.

Tytam Waterworks Extension.—The raising of the byewash dam for a total height of 10 feet above the original level of the byewash has now been completed. Small granite piers have been built on top of the dam, with grooves cut in them for the reception of sluice-boards, by inserting which an additional depth of 2 feet 6 inches of water may be impounded. Without the boards, the capacity of the reservoir is now 390,000,000 gallons and with the boards 415,000,000 gallons.

Road from Victoria Gap to Mount Kellett Road.—Considerable progress has been made with the portion of this road which has been undertaken, the greater part of it having been formed to the required level for concreting. When completed, it will afford a certain amount of relief for the traffic to and from the tramway terminus, but undoubtedly the widening and improving of the remaining portion of the road to Victoria Gap should be gone on with as early as practicable and some proper accommodation for chairs should be provided near the tramway terminus at the same time.

Water and Drainage Works, Miscellaneous.

The following are the principal works which have been carried out under this heading:—Taikoktsui improvement works, Fuk Tsu Heung improvement works, Shaikiwan waterworks, Aberdeen waterworks, Caroline Road and Pennington Street storm-water drainage, Yaumati drainage extensions, Mongkoktsui drainage.

The following works are in progress:—Kennedy Road sites—sewerage works, Kowloon Marine Lot No. 10—sewer for houses, Shaikiwan Market—drainage, Shaikiwan Police Station—drainage, Yaumati drainage—extensions across reclamations.

Isolation Hospital.—This work has been completed and the buildings were handed over to the Medical Department on the 24th April. The main block contains 2 general wards (4 beds each—119 square feet per bed) and 2 private wards (2 beds each—119 square feet per bed), 4 bathrooms, attendants' room, etc., and is surrounded by verandahs 8 feet wide. The coolie quarters, which are situated on a lower terrace adjoining Eastern Street and are connected with the main block by a covered way, contain accommodation for 10 attendants and coolies, besides kitchens, wash-house, drying-room, ironing-room, disinfecting room and store. The buildings are of Canton red brick with granite dressings, the main block having a base of stone-work 2 feet 6 inches high. The site is enclosed with an iron-railing, 6 feet high, with separate gates for access to the hospital and coolie quarters. Since its completion the building has been converted into a lying in hospital.

Extension of Station Street, Kowloon, and Streets at Mongkoktsui.—The streets have been formed and will be surfaced and finished off as soon as the gas and water mains have been laid. When the work is completed, it will be possible to reach Mongkoktsui by ricksha from the Kowloon Ferry Wharf, a performance which has hitherto been impracticable.

Taipingshan Improvement.—Substantial progress has been made with the work of laying out the resumed area and a large proportion of it is now available for the erection of buildings. From the abundant means of light and ventilation provided around the new building sites, the reputation of this locality should, in the future, be entirely changed and I think it is safe to predict that instead of being the breeding-ground for the germs of disease it will be the most healthy of the Chinese quarters of the city.

City of Victoria and Hill District Waterworks, Reservoir, and Catchwater, Wongneichong Gap.—The excavation of the trench for the dam has been completed and concreting will shortly be begun. The heavy rainfall during June has interfered very much with this portion of the work as the groove in the foundation of the dam was continually filled up with mud and water after it had been cleaned out ready for receiving concrete. About 14,500 cubic yards of material have been excavated from a spur of the hill projecting into the reservoir, thereby increasing its capacity to a corresponding extent. Considerable progress has been made with the catchwater along the hill-sides, the greater part of the trench having been excavated and made ready for concreting.

Catchwater West of Tytam Valley.—Substantial progress has been made with this work and the channel has been completed for a length of 5,500 feet or rather more than a mile. The pipes for conveying the water into Tytam reservoir across the intervening valley below the byewash dam have arrived from England and the piers on which they are to be carried have nearly been built ready to receive them.

Filter Beds and Service Reservoir.—The sites for the filter beds have nearly been excavated to the required levels whilst the excavation of the service reservoir has been completed, the floor concreted, and the walls and pillars built about half their height.

Service Reservoir, Peak.—Good progress has been made with this very necessary work. The excavation, consisting largely of rock, has been completed, the floor concreted and the walls and pillars are being built. The erection of the bungalow for the caretaker is about half completed.

New Mains in the City.—The new water mains along Robinson, Caine, and Queen's Roads, and in Wyndham, Aberdeen, Staunton, and Second Streets have been completed.

Extensions of Mains to North Point and Wongneichong.—A contract has been let for digging the trenches required for this work, the pipes having arrived from England.

Gardeners' Cottages.—This building, which is being carried out under the superintendence of Messrs. Denison and Ram, Architects, is nearing completion.

Extension of Gas Lighting, Kowloon.—This work has been completed in the direction of Hungghom, 38 lamps having been provided and fitted with incandescent burners. Other extensions are being undertaken as they become necessary. There are now 93 lamps in Kowloon fitted with incandescent burners.

Improvement of Gas Lighting, City of Victoria.—Altogether 107 lamps have now been fitted with incandescent burners in various districts of the city. Existing lamps are being moved and new lamps erected so as to bring the lighting of the city in accordance with the suggestions contained in the report on this subject.

Raising Praya Wall, Sheklongtsui.—The work in connection with raising the level of the Praya Wall opposite Marine Lots Nos. 126 and 177 to 183 has been completed. The consequent raising of the adjoining roadway still remains to be done.

Jubilee Celebrations.—Numerous public buildings and structures, including the Clock Tower, Queen's Statue, Government House, Central Market, Queen's College, and Tsimshatsui Police Station were illuminated on the night of the 22nd June. About 9,000 lanterns and 4,000 glass lamps, besides 1,325 incandescent electric lights, were utilized for the purpose.

Stones to mark the commencement of the "Victoria Hospital" and "Victoria Road" were successfully laid by His Excellency the Governor on the 23rd June in connection with the works to be undertaken by the colony in

commemoration of Her Majesty's completing the sixtieth year of Her reign.

Plague Account.—Practically the only expenditure incurred by this department under this head has been for the erection of two matcheds in the Taipingshan Resumed Area to accommodate the occupants of houses in which cases of plague had occurred whilst the disinfection was in progress.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

"NIL DESPERANDUM CUP."

An elegant memento of this competition was presented by Mr. H. W. Robertson and the past three weeks have been occupying the attention of those members who were qualified by the conditions laid down to take part in the contest. These conditions were very similar to those which obtained in the "Best average cup" which was played for a month or two ago, but in this instance the entries were limited to members whose handicaps were 18 and upwards; 4 rounds of 9 holes each, players declaring at time of entry, and the best total to win.

The winner spoilt his returns by one poor round, the damage being done at the first hole; however, he is now entitled to a considerable reduction in his handicap, which should be an incentive to him to get into single figures.

There were twenty entries, eleven of which resulted in completed cards, and the subjoined is a detailed list of the returns.

		Gross.	H'p.	Nett.
Mr. E. R. Morris,	47	61	53	51
Mr. W. J. Saunders,	59	49	54	55
Mr. K. McK. Ross,	56	64	61	58
Mr. R. F. Dray,	59	55	67	52
Mr. H. Smith,	67	68	52	61
Mr. P. A. Cox,	61	65	57	62
Mr. G. T. Veitch,	58	64	64	67
Mr. E. F. Mackay,	60	69	66	63
Mr. P. L. Ingpen,	64	62	69	66
Mr. D. Wood,	61	62	69	66
Mr. W. Nicholson,	97	82	76	80
Col. The O'Gorman,	60	61	59	
Mr. J. J. Bartrum,	56	60		
Mr. J. McKie,	64	62		
Mr. A. A. W. Spencer,	62			

DINNER TO HIS EXCELLENCY, SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON, G.C.M.G.

His Excellency the Governor was entertained at dinner on Thursday evening last at the Hongkong Club by about forty members of the Club.

The Captain of the Club, Mr. Gershom Stewart, occupied the chair, and at the conclusion of the dinner rose to propose "The Queen," which was received with the customary loyal enthusiasm.

Coming next to the toast of the evening, "His Excellency the Governor," the Captain of the Club distinguished himself by delivering one of the most interesting speeches probably ever heard on any similar occasion; it was received throughout with many cheers and applause.

His Excellency, in replying, addressed to the members one of those humorous and ready speeches for which he is so well known; his sentences were received with great applause, and he appeared to be in quite his happiest form. As these two speeches contain much matter of historic as well as local interest, they are reported pretty well in full; they were charming and graceful displays of knowledge and rhetoric.

Mr. Stewart, in rising to propose the toast of the evening (which was received with acclamation), said that it was not for him to refer to what they all as colonists owed to His Excellency during his term of office here; he had been with them for six long years in bad times and in good; he had sympathised with their trials and rejoiced in their successes, but their business to-night was to place on record their high appreciation of what he had done for them as golfers. To do this it would be necessary for him to ask a few minutes' indulgence to compare the condition of the Club as it existed at present with what it had been in its earlier years. It was the fortune of this colony (whether bad or good he left to others to determine) to have amongst its members many like himself who hailed from a small country far in the north which he and they were proud to look back upon as their native land. They had carried broadcast throughout the world many of their ancient habits and customs

and had converted many to their way of thinking upon various subjects. In the love of whisky for example they had made so many converts that the disciples now far outnumbered the original apostles, and in regard to golf they were in a fair way to do the same. Some enthusiasts for the Royal and ancient game had played here quietly about nine years ago till the arrival of the 91st Regt. (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders) had placed them in the position to found a proper club, which was inaugurated on the 10th May, 1889; the club then consisting of about ten persons had now developed into one numbering 250 members. Their original "habitat" had been made under the old Race stand, kindly lent them by the Jockey Club, and looking back to the dark and cavernous place they had been glad to frequent he was reminded of the cave dwellers of prehistoric times; but following the natural course of evolution they had sought for other quarters and had been granted the use of a marsh by H.E. the Governor. This they inhabited very happily for several years until increasing numbers and an appalling accumulation of old flannel clothes forced them to struggle on for something better; they again appealed to the Governor, who granted them permission to build their present Club house, which with money borrowed from a friend at the table (Mr. Thomas Jackson) was ably carried out by Mr. Ram. The pressure in the Happy Valley had long before this forced them to look out for some place where they could enjoy a game on Saturday afternoons, and the site of the links at Deep Water Bay was jointly discovered by Sir Fielding Clarke and Major Bennet, R.E. It was but a desolate spot in those days and largely covered with meteoric boulders and the primeval forest, as it had been from time immemorial. But, continued the speaker, nothing daunted, we set to work and imported turf, laid down our greens, and in time made quite a good place of it. But our numbers continued to increase, as also did the pressure of people in the Happy Valley, and as we had in contemplation further extensive developments and improvements we applied to the Government for a lease, which, thanks to our friend His Excellency—I say it, gentlemen, without fear of contradiction, "the best friend this Club has ever had"—we have been successful in obtaining. Being the fortunate possessor himself of the best inheritance a man can receive from his forefathers, a fine constitution, His Excellency has been constant during his term of office here in giving every encouragement to health preserving, invigorating sport. The maintenance of open spaces is invaluable from a health point of view. Sound health can only be preserved by indulging in good exercise, and knowing as we do the small proportion of men who leave the East with a fortune it behoves us all to conserve to the best of our ability that energy which alone keeps us ahead of the Oriental. The colony owes a further debt to His Excellency in that he has opened up for the purposes of recreation the new ground at Bowrington Gardens. This was originally moved for by members of this Club long ago, and when on the ground of expense the question was shelved for some years, it was again brought to the front by members of this Club, and we know that it was only owing to the firm attitude taken by His Excellency on the question that those sixteen good acres were added to the recreation space of the colony. We golfers are counted by the outside world a somewhat "dour" and hard headed lot. Well, gentlemen, it is fortunate that we have a Governor with perception keen enough to see that under our forbidding exterior there lurk elements of good which are worthy of encouragement. For hard headed people a recent correspondence in the *Government Gazette* induces us to believe that His Excellency has a very warm heart, and if it be only a lady of somewhat mature years, he, like every true golfer, is full of tender solicitude for her welfare. (Laughter). I have enumerated some of the material benefits which we have received from His Excellency, but there is a further and honourable one in receiving the title of which we are now the proud possessors. It is entirely owing to the good offices of His Excellency that we have obtained the title of The Royal Hongkong

Golf Club; and on behalf of all golfers I promise Your Excellency that we will endeavour to show ourselves in the future worthy of belonging to a club so favoured. When in course of time Your Excellency leaves this colony it will be a matter of sincere and deep regret to all of us. You will carry with you the good wishes and good will of the entire community, but no regrets will be more sincere and no good wishes will be more hearty than those which will be felt by the members of The Royal Hongkong Golf Club.

His Excellency's health was then enthusiastically drunk with musical honours and three times three.

His Excellency, on rising to respond, met with a warm demonstration, and spoke as follows: Captain Gershom Stewart and gentlemen of The Royal Hongkong Golf Club, I have to thank you, sir, most sincerely for the eloquent and discursive speech with which you have just proposed my health. I am afraid, gentlemen, notwithstanding your cheers, that I shall not be able to answer it adequately. Your worthy Captain has spoken of primeval and prehistoric times, let me be a little historical also. The game of golf, in which we all delight, is, as you know, a Royal and ancient game. It is also called the National game of Scotland, and it has enjoyed that title since 1457. A game that has existed for 400 years may well be entitled to the term of ancient. Its claim to "Royal" is owing to the fact that it is the sport of kings, for 150 or 200 years after the date I have mentioned (1457) James IV., James V., James VI., and Charles I. are said to have been devotedly attached to this noble game. The Royal Hongkong Golf Club has still, and happily, a Stewart as its Captain; a worthy successor, and he may be a descendant, and if so a very worthy one, of those four Kings; at all events if King James VI. of Scotland, who was James I. of England, were here in the flesh I would back our Captain against him in the Happy Valley for a \$10 note. But The Royal Hongkong Golf Club has for its President an *Englishman* (shall I say unfortunately); there is a precedent (notwithstanding the *Hongkong Telegraph*) for that, gentlemen, for in 1834 William IV. was patron of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrew's, and I, for the nonce William the Fifth, am the President of The Royal Hongkong Golf Club. Gentlemen, I thank you most heartily for this great demonstration; I am most honoured by it. Had you "tead" me I should have been satisfied, but as you have "dined me" in this most sumptuous manner I am more than grateful. Gentlemen, I am very glad that you have been made "The Royal Hongkong Golf Club"—with a capital T also—but all the credit is not due to me. It was your gallant captain who suggested it to me. He made the "approach shot" and I, as it were, "holed out the ball." Gentlemen, I am more than sorry that I am not a good golfer; there were no links in the West Indies when I was there during eighteen long years, but I recognise, from a healthful and athletic point of view what a splendid game it is, one which adapts itself to the exuberance of youth, to the matured and tempered strength of manhood, and the gentle decay of age. Mr. Stewart has said I am the best friend The Royal Hongkong Golf Club has ever had. I hope you think so too—many thanks for those cheers of concurrence—I am glad to hear them. Let me tell you what one of the ablest of England's living Viceroy's, Lord Dufferin, once said: "We Governors are but fleeting shadows and evanescent eidolons that haunt your history, but scarcely contribute a line to its pages." That being so it is indeed satisfactory to know that I shall leave behind me at least one kindly memory, and that my name will be perhaps for ever identified with The Royal Hongkong Golf Club, which numbers amongst its members all that is best of the youth and maturity of this colony. In proposing "The Royal Hongkong Golf Club," His Excellency said he had been somewhat unexpectedly called upon to propose the toast of "Success and Prosperity to The Royal Hongkong Golf Club." It was a very young Club, hardly out of long clothes, but very vigorous; it was popular and populous; numerically and financially it was in excellent condition; recruits were pouring in—in fact only two days ago the shilling had been taken by one of the best known and highly

respected men in the colony (cries of "Name, Name," Mr. A. G. Stokes. (Loud cheers.) Looking to its condition and prosperity it seemed hardly necessary to drink to what was already fulfilled, but he would give them the "Success and further prosperity of The Royal Hongkong Golf Club," and couple with it the name of the able and energetic secretary, Mr. Dalrymple.

The Hon. Secretary, in reply, addressed the Chairman, His Excellency, and gentlemen of The Royal Hongkong Golf Club and thanked H.E. the Governor for coupling his name with the last toast. He could have wished it had been placed in a bler, more experienced, and safer hands. However, having got as far as the "tee" he would "take the honour." He much regretted the absence of the Naval members, but had unfortunately quite overlooked the fact that they might be "engaged in another place"—celebrating Trafalgar Day—when arranging the date. He had looked up his diary, but the only item which might have clashed with the present arrangement was the discovery of America by one Columbus in 1492; this, he thought, was going back too far to be a reason for changing the date. He desired to maintain his position in regard to the T which had aroused the indignation of some scribblers. His Excellency had given a most interesting and historic account of the game of golf, and the Chairman had preceded him with one of the most fluent speeches he had ever heard in connection with any sport; the ground, therefore, had been rather cut from under his feet; but he would say that in his belief the only Clubs in the British Isles which rejoiced in the same distinctive title as this young but prosperous club, were "The Royal Musselburgh" and "The Royal Dublin," who acquired the right to the title in 1876 and 1892 respectively.

Having got to this point the reporter believes the speaker got somewhat "bunkered" since he is credited with enunciating the question of ladies' golf—a topic of which he is known to fight very shy—with the admission that there might be, in the near future, a possibility for the ladies, if they would rest their souls in calm content, and take what the gods would provide.

In conclusion he said he hoped some one would propose the health of the Captain, though it was not down on the toast list; he was a man well able to take very good care of himself, of the Club, and of the Hon. Secretary, and thanking H.E. the Governor for the honour placed in his hands subsided into his seat.

A few well known hands obliged the company with some excellent songs, and a recitation, which were received with much heartiness, and shortly before 11 o'clock the party separated, having spent a very enjoyable evening, and one with which, we understand, the Governor was much pleased. As this was the object of the members, we are happy in the hope that His Excellency bore away with him the reminiscence of a good time with the members of "The Royal Hongkong Golf Club" on the 21st October, 1897.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB V. LADIES' RECREATION CLUB.

This match was played on Saturday, 23rd Oct., and resulted in a win for the Cricket Club by 82 runs on the first innings, a result mainly due to the batting of Ward and Bowden Smith and the bowling of Hastings. The last named player made a most successful start in Hongkong and he should prove a great acquisition to the Club in the bowling line.

Winning the toss the Cricket Club elected to bat first on a hard and perfectly true wicket, Col. Gordon and E. R. Morris facing the deliveries of Vallings and Gordon. Morris did not seem at home and succumbed early to Vallings's bowling. He was replaced by Ward and the score was quickly raised to 38 before Col. Gordon, who had played first class cricket and appeared to be well set, scooped a curly one of Vallings' into the coverpoint's hands. Hastings was immediately bowled by Vallings and then Maitland helped Ward to take the score to 77 before he foolishly ran himself out through some really smart fielding on the part of Vallings. Ward had Bowden Smith for his next partner, but after the two

by good cricket had made 31 runs, Ward was caught at point just before the luncheon hour for a hard hit and well played 64. He was at the wickets for an hour and twenty minutes and his score included 1 six, 2 fives and 4 fours. On the resumption of the game, Bowden Smith continued to play good and stylish cricket and he carried out his bat for 33, the remainder of the side except Davies (12) giving him little support. Considering the true state of the wicket, Vallings's performance in taking 9 wickets for 54 runs (the other wicket being run out through his smart fielding) speaks for itself.

There is little to report about the L. R. C.'s batting, two of the side (Gordon 32 and Johnstone 24) making 56 out of a total of 66 off the bat. While Gordon was in he made things quite merry for the field, his hitting being clean and well timed, but as soon as he left the cricket was slow indeed, Johnston alone defying the bowling with any degree of confidence. He was the last man out for a patiently played 24. We have before alluded to Hastings' bowling and his figures (18.4 overs, 8 maidens, 31 runs, 7 wickets) are very good. On the whole, the fielding on both sides was good, Col. Gordon being noticeable for his alertness. He never missed an opportunity of backing up and it would be as well if several younger members of the club followed his example in this respect.

Being in a minority of 82 runs the L. R. C. followed on their innings and at call of time had run up 75 for 5 wickets, of which number Vallings made 30 and Gordon 21.

In view of the coming interport matches, we should much like to see more men at the nets nightly, for we feel sure that only by constant practice will Hongkong be able to hold her own against the combinations from the Straits and Shanghai which will be pitted against them during the second week in November. We understand that the Garrison will meet the Club next Friday and Saturday for their first encounter of the season.

During Saturday afternoon a great number of ladies were present to witness the match and by the kindness of Col. Gordon and officers of the West Yorkshire Regt. their band enlivened the proceedings with selections of music.

Appended is the full score:—

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

Col. Gordon, W.Y.R., c Atkinson, b Vallings	16
E. R. Morris, b Vallings	2
A. G. Ward, c Atkinson, b Vallings	64
J. F. A. Hastings, R.N., b Vallings	0
F. Maitland, run out	11
St. Bowden Smith, not out	33
J. R. Gillingham, b Vallings	0
P. G. Davis, R.A., c Johnston, b Vallings	12
A. Mackenzie, b Vallings	0
A. Anderson, c and b Vallings	5
F. Kew, b Vallings	2
Extras	16

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BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B. Wickets
G. R. Vallings. 21.4	7	54	—	9
C. Gordon..... 8	1	30	—	—
W. Ross..... 3	—	14	—	—
Capt. Langhorne 13	1	36	—	—
P. L. Ingpen... 5	1	11	—	—

LADIES' RECREATION CLUB.

Capt. Langhorne, R.A., c				
Maitland, b Morris	0	b Davis	3	
C. W. Gordon, W.Y.R., c				
Maitland, b Hastings	32	c Morris, b Gillingham	21	
H. S. Moberley, H.K.R.,				
b Hastings	0	b Davis	0	
Rev. G. R. Vallings, b				
Hastings	0	c Mackenzie, b Col. Gordon	30	
W. Ross, b Morris	0	b Gillingham	7	
S. Col. Johnston, A.M.S.,				
b Hastings	24			
Dr. Atkinson, c Maitland,				
b Mackenzie	0	not out	4	
Capt. Berger, H.K.R., c				
Bowden-Smith, b Hastings	1	not out	5	
P. L. Ingpen, W.Y.R., c				
Kew, b Hastings	3			
H. A. Ritchie, c Anderson,				
b Hastings	5			
P. Wodehouse, not out	1			
Extras	13	Extras	5	

79

75

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	N.B. Wickets.
E. R. Morris. 7	—	21	—	2
J.F.A. Hastings 13.4	8	31	—	7
A. Mackenzie... 12	5	15	—	1

	Second Innings.			
J.F.A. Hastings	5	—	18	—
P. G. Davis	8	2	27	—
Gillingham	6	—	21	—
Col. Gordon	2	—	4	—

JELEBU MINING AND TRADING CO., LIMITED.

The sixteenth ordinary general meeting of the Jelebu Mining and Trading Co., Limited, was held at Singapore on the 16th October. Mr. Arnot Reid (director) presided, and among others present were Messrs. Diez, Ewald, Burgmann, Schwabe, Lean, Vogler, Yeo Swee Hee, Low Cheng Seah, and Ee Choon Bok.

The Chairman, having explained the unavoidable absence of his co-directors, said the substantial fact to be noted in the report was that, by their alluvial mining at Jelebu, they had earned a profit during the last half year of \$3,000, but that was absorbed, and more than absorbed, by the loss that occurred through the robbery of treasure. It was, he believed, the first time that such a robbery had occurred in the history of the Malay Peninsula. They had taken such extra precautions as were suggested to them, though he must not be assumed to imply that there was previously any lack of precaution. At Malihun, there was a loss of \$7,000, and the only thing that could be said concerning that was that, when they were opening up, it was scarcely possible to make a profit. Operations were being carried on very cautiously, and he thought there was reason to believe that, during the present half-year, they would be able to make their expenses, and continue to prospect, and develop the adjoining hills which were believed to be rich in lode tin. It was perhaps on the prospects of the Rin Lode at Jelebu that the more immediate future of the Company depended. They believed they had found a considerable lode of tin there. Their mining manager believed so, and Mr. Bibby, who went up to advise them, believed the same. From very large samples that had been sent to Germany, they had obtained favourable results. At that particular moment, they had lost the lode. He did not suppose that they had lost it permanently, but it had been interrupted by a break. As regarded the development of the lode, they did not intend to rush down a quantity of stamps or crushing machinery until they knew they had the lode and had proved it thoroughly, and until they had brought to bank a very considerable quantity of ore. It was upon these lines they were working, necessarily with patience, and certainly with much anxiety and care. At the last general meeting, it was left to the directors to find a new colleague to join them on the Board, and they were fortunate in inducing Mr. Jackson Millar to join them. Mr. Jackson Millar was a most useful member, especially at the present juncture, when they were considering the question of pumping and winding machinery and the like. Mr. Millar proposed shortly to go up and spend several days at Jelebu, to examine as to what could be done. He moved that the report and accounts as presented be adopted.

Mr. Diez seconded the motion, and it was carried.

This was all the business.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

MR. OTTOMAR HAUPT AND THE EXCHANGE QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—In your issue of the 20th October you give some remarks on the silver question by Mr. Ottomar Haupt, Paris, in the *Financial Times*. Under the heading "Hongkong" he says:—As the quotation for Mexican dollars is quite nominal in London no correct calculation can be established." This is misleading, the more so coming as it does from the pen of Mr. Haupt, who is considered, or rather has the reputation of being, an authority on monetary matters. The exchange quoted in Hongkong is not based on the price of Mexican dollars in the London market, as might be inferred from

Mr. Haupt's remarks, and a correct calculation can be established based on the British dollar, the weight and fineness of which are of course known.

Under the heading "Singapore and Penang" he writes:—"The development of the foreign exchanges in the Straits Settlements with regard to the depreciation of silver is very strange indeed, and deserves to be watched." Mr. Haupt seems astonished that the exchange on London in the Straits Settlements ruled so high, that is, so much above the parity of silver, but had he contemplated the large flow of silver yen from the Straits to Japan (caused by that country adopting the gold standard, which came into force on the 1st October) he would have probably seen that the contraction of the currency which has recently taken place in the Straits practically accounted for the exchange in Singapore being so much higher than the parity of silver. Money became very light by the continuous withdrawal of so much metallic currency, the silver Japanese yen having been largely current in the Straits Settlements.—Yours truly,

W. H. G.

Hongkong, 21st October, 1897.

THE DEFENCE OF HONGKONG AND A LOW LEVEL TRAMWAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The time is now ripe for the construction of the low level tramway, for it is now possible to lay it down without carrying it along the Queen's Road, the reclamation in front being sufficiently advanced to permit of its being laid down on the former Praya. From a military point of view it is strongly advisable that the Lyceum Pass fortifications and those at West Point should be linked together by a line of this sort, and as it would also run past the barracks and the Naval Yard it would be possible to pick up military stores or men there and throw them into the forts at either end of the island in much less time than could be done by other means; further, the men could be rapidly concentrated at either end of the island to resist an attack in force by the enemy, without being exhausted by marching, and thus would arrive fresh and fit. I consider it would add to the effective force of the garrison as much as an additional strength of 200 men. The tram line should be provided with trucks, for the carriage of goods, as well as passenger cars, and these should be capable of carrying even heavy guns if necessary. From a financial point of view there is no doubt that such a line would prove to be a very remunerative investment, and I think the military authorities might grant a small subsidy on condition that they were to have the sole use of the line should they require it at any time. It would be used for passenger traffic during the day and for goods traffic at night. The tram-line would, open up new building sites both East and West. It would not interfere with the traffic along the roads it ran on, but rather regulate it, keeping the two streams, going East and West, each to its proper side of the road. The capital for such a line would be subscribed at once, more than twice over

WIDEAWAKE.

Hongkong, 25th October, 1897.

BRITISH CONSULAR CHANGES.

Mr. H. F. Brady will shortly proceed to Samshui to take up his appointment as H. M.'s Consul, on being relieved by Mr. H. E. Fulford, who succeeds him as Vice-Consul in charge of the shipping office at Shanghai.

Mr. Hauser, at present Acting-Consul at Soochow, proceeds at once to Momein, having been appointed to that post as H. M.'s Consul, Mr. W. P. Ker, who is at present attached to H. M.'s Consulate-General at Shanghai, relieving him at Soochow.

Mr. A. Hosie, it is understood, proceeds immediately to Wuchowfu, as Consul, relieving Mr. J. W. Jamieson, who it is thought returns to Canton as Vice-Consul, Mr. E. H. Fraser having been appointed to Pagoda Anchorage.

Mr. L. C. Hopkins receives the much coveted post of Consul at Chefoo, on which we congratulate him.

Mr. J. M. Tratman, who is at present in Chunking, has been appointed Consul at Ssumao on the Tongking frontier.

We understand that the present promotions include a number of the assistants, who have been transferred from the lower to the senior grade.—*China Gazette*.

HONGKONG.

The 1897-98 session of the Legislative Council opened on Monday afternoon, when His Excellency the Governor submitted the Estimates for the ensuing year. Several Bills were read a first time. Beyond one or two interesting cases in the law courts nothing of importance has transpired during the past week.

Amongst the passengers who arrived by the German mail steamer *Sachsen* on 20th Oct. was Mr. Ormsby, the new Director of Public Works.

The maximum temperature last month was 91.8, on the 29th, and the minimum 72.3 on the 17th, the mean for the month being 81.2. The rainfall amounted to 8.34 inches.

Mrs. Carew was removed from Victoria Gaol on the 19th October to the P. & O. steamer *Sumatra*, which sailed for England soon after the convict arrived on board. The removal was of course kept a profound secret. Mrs. Carew is in charge of ex-Sergeant Phelps and a female warder.

A telegram has been received by the Great Eastern & Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited, from the manager at the mines at Mount Macdonald, to the effect that a lode has been struck in sinking a shaft in the Zulu Mine, the average width of which is nine inches and the yield averaging 2ozs. to the ton. The Zulu is a recently acquired claim.

A number of notifications relating to Mr. R. D. Ormsby, the new Director of Public Works, appear in the *Gazette*. All communications in connection with the Praya Reclamation works are to be addressed to him, and he is appointed a member of the Legislative Council, a member and chairman of the Wong-nei-chong Recreation Ground Committee, and the Water Authority under the Waterworks Ordinance.

In the public advertisement of the recent sale of the houses Nos. 355 and 357, Queen's Road Central, by Messrs. Hughes & Hough, the area was not stated, so that from the report of the sale that appeared in the papers at the time it was not possible to work out the price per foot realised. We learn that this came to no less than \$25.66, which we believe is a record for property in that locality. This represents practically the price of the land only, as the existing houses must be pulled down if the property is to be turned to full account.

Chinese superstition involving illegalities cannot be permitted to have precedence over the laws of this colony. One great superstition a Chinaman has is that if a stranger dies in his house the ghost of the dead man will haunt the place for ever and ever. A lodging house keeper at Yau-mati had this superstition and he and four others turned a lodger who fell sick into the street, thus creating a nuisance in addition to seriously jeopardising the poor fellow's life. The five men were charged at the Police Court on Saturday and Mr. Wodehouse did not fail to remark on the great danger and inhumanity of putting a man into the street to die. The lodging house keeper was fined \$10 and the other men were let off with a caution, it being considered that they acted under the lodging house keeper's instructions.

Mr. W. Chatham, in his Public Works report for the first half of the year, says in connection with the new road from near Victoria Gap to Mount Kellett Road, that undoubtedly the widening and improving of the remaining portion of the road to Victoria Gap should be gone on with as early as practicable. This recommendation has already been adopted and the work put in hand. From the Gap to the point at which the new road branches off there is a considerable dip, which will have to be filled up. Mr. Ede some years ago, when he was levelling his lots, offered to do this filling in work for nothing, which would have been a convenience to himself as affording a ready means of disposing of the excavated earth, and a convenience to the public. The offer, however, with the wisdom characteristic of Government departments, was declined, and the colony will now have to pay a substantial sum for work it could have had done for nothing and the convenience of which might have been enjoyed for several years past.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—Seamen's Church and Mission Fund, \$21.19.

The steamer *Machew* was decorated on 20th Oct. in honour of the wedding of Captain Framp-ton, of the *Shantung*. The wedding took place at St. Peter's Church, the bride being Miss Florence Ackers, daughter of Mrs. Ackers, of the Government Civil Hospital.

From the *Gazette* we observe that a quantity of the Taipingshan property is again to be offered for sale, and as we believe it has been put up at the request of intending purchasers the auction is not on this occasion likely to prove a blank. The property offered is in Taipingshan Street and consists of 11,475 square feet divided into six lots, of which five measure 45 feet on each side and the remaining one 45 feet by 30 feet. The upset price is \$4 a foot and the annual Crown rent \$32 on the larger lots and \$22 on the smaller one. The larger lots will contain three houses and the smaller one two. When the property was offered in May last it was put up in one-house lots. As the total quantity offered on that occasion was only 3,825 square feet in Taipingshan Street, as compared with 11,475 on the present occasion, and as the lots are differently arranged, it is impossible to make an exact comparison of the terms, but whereas the upset price was on the former occasion from \$4 to \$4½ in Taipingshan Street and \$3 in Taiping Street it is now made uniform at \$4 for the larger quantity offered in Taipingshan Street, and the Crown rent has been reduced to less than a quarter of what it was under the original terms, that is, from \$50 for one-house lots to \$32 for three-house lots.

A smoking concert was held in the gymnasium of the Victoria Recreation Club on Saturday night, 23rd Oct., Commander W. C. H. Hastings presiding. A most attractive programme drew a very large number of members and friends, the demand for space being so great that sitting accommodation could not be found for all. A very prettily arranged stage had been fitted up and two new scenes which were used for the first time on Saturday were greatly admired. They were painted by Mr. W. Farmer, who copied two of Turner's studies of Venice. Before the proceedings commenced Commander Hastings, on behalf of the Club, heartily thanked Mr. Farmer for his kindness in presenting the scenes, which, everyone would admit, were exceedingly good. The concert was a great success, the vocalists being Messrs. E. Mirow, W. Muskett (who also recited), C. H. Grace, J. Kirkpatrick, W. Pearson-Robinson, S. H. Somerton, and C. T. Robinson, while instrumental music was supplied by the string band of the West Yorkshire Regiment, Musician Haley, who gave two excellent cornet solos, Messrs. R. Houghton and A. S. Bourne, and Mr. Farr, who acted as accompanist. Mr. Somerton possesses a strong and clear baritone voice, and the audience were so well pleased that he had to give encore songs. Mr. Grace, of course, was also a great favourite and he met with a very hearty reception. Mr. C. T. Robinson was particularly good on Saturday night and provoked roars of laughter with his humorous contributions. As usual he had to respond to demands for encores.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Another destructive fire occurred at Shanghai on the evening of the 17th October. The outbreak originated in a native eating house in Foochow Road, and was caused by a person trimming a kerosine lamp with a naked light beside it. Fifteen houses were totally destroyed. The property was owned by Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co., and was fully insured.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 18th October says:—We learn on good authority that the counsel for the plaintiffs has given notice to the defendants' counsel that the suit laid in the Supreme Court at Hongkong, "The Emperor of China v. Bannertz & Co." has been withdrawn. This will, of course, stop all the proceedings of the Commission appointed at Shanghai to take evidence, which has been hard at work for some days past. The withdrawal of this suit leaves the s.s. *Ningchow* unrestrictedly in the possession of Messrs. Bannertz & Co., for the present at least.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 19th October.—Congou.—Total Settlements for the past month amount to only 3,300 boxes at from Tls. 9½ to 17 and call for no remarks. The fourth crop is likely to be an unusually short one this year. A few parcels of Hoyunnes have been taken in Canton. Scented Capers.—The month's settlements mount up to 21,000 boxes at from Tls. 11½ to 27 per picul, the bulk of the purchases consisting of Teas costing Tls. 20 per picul and under; a few fine Teas have been taken at Tls. 22 to 24 per picul. During the past fortnight the short supply has become generally apparent, and prices have advanced all round, being now about Tls. 2 per picul higher than those current three weeks ago. At the time of writing the market is practically cleared of all new season's leaf; small lots of fourth crop leaf arrive from time to time and are at once snapped up. Scenting flower is not very abundant and has been very dear, owing to the large demand for it from the Pouchong dealers. Total settlements to date are 175,000 against 215,000 boxes at same time last season. Stocks in native hands of leaf suitable for the London market are practically nil, but some 4,000 to 5,000 boxes of old leaf still remain. We do not expect to see our estimate of the total export for the season, viz., 4½ million pounds, much exceeded, but at any rate it will be inside 4½ million pounds. Jong-leaf Scented Orange Pekoes.—A few contracts for fourth crop leaf of excellent quality have been filled, prices not having transpired; there is no fear of overwhelming quantities being sent forward.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1897-98 lbs.	1896-97 lbs.
Canton and Macao	4,169,447	4,620,151
Shanghai and Hankow ...	11,011,147	15,551,509
Foochow	15,664,212	11,517,247
Amoy	591,759	484,217
	26,439,565	32,173,124

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98 lbs.	1896-97 lbs.
Shanghai	12,692,083	10,592,786
Amoy	10,285,975	11,825,075
Foochow	5,897,972	5,426,028
	28,875,130	27,843,881

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1897-98 lbs.	1896-97 lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	19,375,665	22,925,118

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1897-98 lbs.	1896-97 lbs.
Yokohama	22,600,702	21,473,880
Kobe	13,506,618	10,441,354
	36,107,320	31,915,234

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 22nd October.—(From Messrs. A. B. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—London advices quote a firm market. Gold Kilins 9/6 and Blue Elephants 9/10½. Raw Silk.—There is still a want of orders from all quarters and transactions in White Silks are almost nil. The only purchases we have heard of are: Large Elephant 3 at 11s. 470, Double Butterfly 9/12 Moss No. 2 Tls. 372½, Gold Bear Extra 9/12 Moss Tls. 342½, and Mars chop No. 1 X Red Hand Filature Tls. 553½. Yellow Silks have been rather freely dealt in, settlements aggregating 250/300 bales. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 11th to 20th October, 455 bales White, 376 piculs Yellow, and 148 piculs Wild Silks. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: to America 2,360 bales, to Continent 1,806 bales, to London 16 bales, to Japan 4 bales. Waste Silk.—Business is on small lines. We quote Curries 1, 2 and 3 11s. 47½ to 11s. 48½, and Szechuen Frisettes (whole bales) 11s. 21½.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent; Exchange 2/8½; Freight Tls. 7.8 per bale:—

	Tls. 81g.	per picul.	lb.
Tailors.—Large Elephant 3	470	11/0	
Tayssam.—9 by 12 Moss Double Butterfly 2	372½	8/9	
Gold Bear Extra	342½	8/1½	
Yellow Silk.—Tungloh	315 a 323	7/6 a 7/8	
—Mienchow	317½ a 325	7/6 a 7/8	
—Kopun	225	5/8	
Szechong	153½	13/1	
Hand Filatures.—Mars Chop Croisee No. 1	190	4/7	
Wild Silk.—Szechuen Thesab Raw			

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	28,395	27,071
Canton	13,032	13,705
Yokohama	7,915	8,676
	49,342	37,452

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1897-98	1896-97
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	4,896	545
Canton	5,828	716
Yokohama	11,339	3,274
	22,113	4,535

CAMPION

HONGKONG, 26th October.—The market is brisk and prices advancing. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$49.00 to \$49.25. Sales, 300 piculs.

SUGAR

HONGKONG, 26th October.—The market is firmer and there has been a slight recovery in prices. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.32 to 7.35 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.92 to 6.94 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.67 to 4.70 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.58 to 4.60 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.27 to 7.30 "
do. " 2, White...	6.82 to 6.85 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.65 to 4.67 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.55 to 4.58 "
Soochow Sugar Candy	11.15 to 11.18 "
Shekloong	9.77 to 9.80 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Lucy A Nickels*, sailed on 19th Oct. For New York:—40 packages canes, 100 casks preserves, 150 casks soy, 250 bales, broken cassia, 462 packages rattanware, 500 bales hemp, 815 chests tea, 875 packages fire crackers, 4,560 rolls matting, 5,750 boxes palmeaffans, and 607 packages merchandise.

The P. & O. steamer *Sumatra*, sailed on the 19th October. For Buenos Aires:—1,000 packages tea. For London:—5 cases cigars and 250 bales hemp from Manila, 100 bales waste silk, 18 bales canes, 26 bales feathers, 295 rolls mats and matting, 16 cases blackwoodware, 39 cases chinaware, 8 cases private effects, 13 cases cigars, 16 cases dry ginger, 943 cases preserves and 350 casks preserves, 2 packages sundries, 11,619 (boxes tea). For London and/or Manchester:—75 bales waste silk. For Malta:—5 boxes curios, and 1 box silk piece goods. For Milan:—84 bales waste silk. For Trieste:—225 packages tea, and 8 bales leaf tobacco.

Per steamer *Dardanus*, sailed on the 19th Oct. For London:—4779 boxes tea (100,275 lbs.), 17 cases blackwoodware, 20 cases vermilion, 37 cases cigars, 27 cases m. o. p. shells, 2,678 cases ginger, 450 casks ginger, 1,290 bales hemp, 76 bales pierced cocoons, 100 bales waste silk, 60 bales canes, 9 packages effects, 89 packages rattanware, and 14 packages sundries. For London and/or Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For London and/or Rotterdam and/or Hamburg and/or Amsterdam:—100 cases ginger. For Manchester:—1 package effects, and 150 bales waste silk. For Liverpool:—2,500 bales hemp, and 1 case clothing. For Glasgow:—5 cases blackwoodware, 50 cases preserves, and 50 casks preserves.

Per steamer *Ravenna*, sailed on the 21st Oct. For London:—120 boxes lychees from Foochow, 50 bales raw silk, 9 cases silk piece goods, 5 cases sundries, 500 cases dryginger, and 374 boxes tea (unknown). For Manchester:—50 bales waste silk. For Gibraltar:—1 case silk piece goods, 2 cases chinaware, and 2 cases curios. For France:—407 bales raw silk, 204 bales pierced cocoons, and 3 cases silk piece goods.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—Bengal.—The market has been fairly active and rates have kept steady throughout the interval, closing quotations being \$710 for New Patna and \$707½ for New Benares.

Malwa.—The demand having continued dull rates have further receded. Latest figures are as follows:—

New (this yr's) \$800 with allowance of 2 to 3 cts.	
" (last ") \$830	1 to 3 "
Old (2½ ") \$850	1 to 2 "
" (6/12 ") \$890	½ to 0 "

Persian.—There has been a fair amount of business transacted in this drug during the period under review, prices for which have not undergone any alteration, current rates being \$50 to \$68 for Oily and \$50 to \$710 for Paper-wrapped drug, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	933 chests.
New Benares	531 "
Malwa	270 "
Persian	530 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Oct. 21	710	—	707½	—	800 830 850 890	
Oct. 22	710	—	707½	—	800 830 850 890	
Oct. 23	710	—	707½	—	800 830 850 890	
Oct. 24	710	—	707½	—	800 830 850 890	
Oct. 25	710	—	707½	—	800 830 850 890	
Oct. 26	710	—	707½	—	800 830 850 890	

RICE.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—There has been a large increase in prices on this market but the Canton market is weak. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.87 to 2.90
" Round, good quality	3.15 to 3.18
" Long	3.35 to 3.38
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	2.92 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	3.42 to 3.46
" White	4.27 to 4.30
" Fine Cargo	4.62 to 4.65

COALS.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—Market steady. Sales of Japanese 10,000 tons at \$8.75 and \$10.2

Quotations are:—	
Caniff	\$16.50 to 17.50 ex ship.
Australian ..	\$9.00 to 9.40 small.
" ..	10.50 lump.
Milke Lump ..	10.00 to 10.50 ex ship, nominal
Milke Small ..	8.50 to 10.50 nominal
Moji Lump ..	8.00 to 9.50 ex ship, steady

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—	
755 bales No. 10 at \$84 to \$90, 15 bales No. 12	
at \$90 to \$95, 135 bales No. 16 at \$94 to \$95, 370	
bales No. 20 at \$101 to \$108. T. Cloths—375	
pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Father Brush at \$2.02½.	
METALS.—Tin.—100 slabs Foongchai at \$39.50.	
Iron—50 tons old wire ropes at \$2.	

SHANGHAI, 21st October.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co's. Piece Goods Trade Report)—There is still nothing of an encouraging nature to chronicle with regard to this market, on the contrary it is going rapidly from bad to worse and there seems to be no stopping it. It would be too much to attribute the present distressful state of things entirely to the Auctions, but without question they are contributing largely towards it. The dealers here are not in the position to support prices, even if it were to their interest to do so, and as orders from the country are being withheld pending something more definite, if possible, regarding the future of Exchange, there is nothing to keep them up, but at the same time the decline has not been greater than the rise in sterling rates, as can be seen by comparing the prices paid on 29/30th September, when Exchange was 2½, with those ruling yesterday and to-day. At the Ewo Auction the decline is 8½ per cent. on 8.4-lbs. Shirtings and 7½ per cent. on the heavy Shirtings, while the Yuen-fong comparison is more favourable, being only 5½ per cent. on 8.4-lbs. Shirtings and 6½ per cent. on the heavier makes. Under the circumstances, therefore, it will be seen that prices are holding their own remarkably well, but it cannot be denied that the Auction quotations have all along been unduly low and quite out of range of the cost of replacing. The situation here is undoubtedly being very carefully watched by operators at the Outports, who are pursuing the policy usually so successfully carried out by the Natives, namely, that of waiting. The dealers admit that there is a plentiful supply of orders

here; the instructions, however, are not to rush things, but to quietly freeze out the unfortunate holders. They know full well the disinclination there always is to carry goods through the winter, and they are just waiting to get them at their own prices, and if we are not much mistaken they will succeed. Manchester is doing nothing to weaken prices here, but it looks more than probable that our worst fears, as expressed last week, will be fully realised by the action of Manufacturers in the United States, and this become the dumping ground of their surplus stocks. The outlook is not cheerful, but there seems to be no help for it. The goods are made in utter disregard of the probable or even possible demand for them, and have to be got rid of, and will be offered at lower prices until some one is tempted to buy them. Now is the time to drive a lesson home, if Importers will only use a little discretion and combine against this rueful spoliation of their trade. Surely the experience of this last year should be sufficient to all not to encourage the natives to embark on these speculative transactions, which must cause ruin to many who have been engaged in the trade this season. A glance at the figures alone clearly shows that there is an ample supply, here and on the water, for all requirements up to the end of June next; to countenance further importations will be suicidal. The one great safeguard at present is that Importers have not implicit confidence in their native friends that they had. Telegraphic advices from Tientsin report a sudden drop in both American goods and Yarns, the latter four to five taels a bale. The quotation for *Indian Head Sheetings* is now Tls. 3.50. Newchwang is very quiet, and the time is growing short for anything more to be done for that market this season. Possibly orders are being kept back, as with the Tientsin buyers, owing to the uncertainty of Exchange movements. The up river demand is very unsatisfactory, and clearances this week generally have been poor. There has been a further fall in the Yarn market of fully two taels a bale, and trouble has commenced with the Native Indentors, one irresponsible individual having disappeared from the scene, leaving liabilities to the tune of some Tls. 20,000, behind him, representing the loss on 1,200 sales. Native Cotton is steady, the best machine ginned remaining at Tls. 15.40 per picul. METALS, 22nd October.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bileid & Co's. Report.)—The past week has shown a continuation of that utter stagnation which we have had to chronicle for the past month and more. Exchange is the topic, and it is impossible to transact any business not only in this line but in any of the branches of the import trade. Another factor in the already long list of causes of harassment against which the merchant has to contend is the action of the Chinese, many of whom during the past week have rejected the cargo ordered by them. This still further serves to dishearten the already sadly hampered importer, and many of them are looking into the future through very dark glasses indeed.

EXCHANGE.

TUESDAY, 26th October.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.43
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.47
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	1.96½
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	46½
Credits, 60 days' sight	47½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147½
Bank, on demand	148
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	147½
Bank, on demand	148
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	75½
Private, 30 days' sight	76½
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	4½ % pm.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	3 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	par.
SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate	10.19
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	54½

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 26th October.—Rates continue steady, without much variation, the tendency being, however, rather inclined upwards in most of the big stocks, whilst mining and the minor stocks show a slight tendency downward.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled firm with small sales at 179 cash and at 180 per cent. prem. for the settlements. On time shares are enquired for at 185 for December and 188/9 for January. Holders, however, are loth to part and the demand remains unsatisfied. Nationals have been enquired for at \$21½ and \$22 without leading to business, and at time of closing a demand exists at \$23.

MARINE INSURANCES.—The market continues neglected with sellers of all stocks at quotations, and with the exception of small sales of Straits locally at \$19 and of North Chinas in Shanghai at Tls. 200 there is no business to report.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have ruled somewhat weaker, sellers vainly offering to part at \$370, and with no buyers even at a few points lower. Chinas continue steady and in fair demand at \$107 to \$107½ with sales and buyers at the former rate.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao remain weak and out of favour with little or no business; shares are obtainable at \$30½, but buyers are still conspicuous by their absence. Indo-Chinas continuing in demand the rate has risen to \$51 with sales, after small transactions at \$50½, the market closing steady at the higher rate. China and Manilas remain unchanged, without business. Douglasses have found further buyers at \$58 and close steady to strong at that; the Company is about to order a new steamer to replace the *Namoa*, which latter has become a total loss and been sold by auction. China Mutuals without business; shares could be placed at quotation, but none are forthcoming.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars in the early part of the week continued steady at \$152½ to \$153 and some small lots changed hands at these rates; towards the close, however, the rates again hardened and sales were effected at \$154 for cash and settlements, whilst sales were reported for December and January at \$156 and \$158. The market closes strong at \$154. Luzons have suddenly, after a long period of inaction, again come into the market and shares have changed hands at \$34, \$35, \$36, and \$37, closing steady at \$37. The improvement is due to the rumour that the Company will re-commence work, which has lately been stopped, owing to the heavy rains preventing the natives from bringing in sugar.

MINING.—The market has been very dull and rates generally declining. Punjoms were in a small demand in the early part of the week and changed hands at \$4.10 to \$4.25, and close steady at \$4.25. Charbonnages are enquired for at \$100, but as no shares are forthcoming higher rates could doubtless be obtained. New Balmorals at \$1.50 and \$1.40 for preference and ordinaries have ruled quiet with small sales and close at those rates. Jelebus have weakened to \$2.30 with sales, closing quiet. Raubs again declined to \$20½ with small sales at that after fair transactions at \$21 and \$20½, but close at \$20½ strong with buyers. Olivers have ruled rather erratic with sales of B's at \$8 to \$7½ and afterwards at \$7½, closing steady at \$8. Great Eastern and Caledonians.—A wire has been received from the Manager stating that a lode has been struck (bearing 2 oz. gold) 9 inches wide, whilst sinking a shaft on the newly acquired Zulu property. On receipt of this market immediately jumped from \$2.90 (at which and at \$2.80 shares had previously been changing hands) to \$3.40 (for \$2.50 paid up shares), after fair sales at \$3, \$3.10, and \$3.25; at time of writing the market is quieter with sellers at \$3.10 for \$2½ shares and buyers at \$5.75 for fully paid.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Stocks under this heading continue neglected. Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled steady at 22½ per cent. prem. cash, but without business; whilst Kowloon Wharves and Wanchai Godowns remain unchanged and without business at quotations. New Amoy Docks have changed hands at \$18 and are on offer at \$18½; the Company has called a meeting to place a proposition emanating from the directors to return \$3.75 capital per share before the shareholders.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands remain steady at \$75 without business. Hotels quiet at \$48. West Points have been negotiated at \$21½ and Humphreys at \$9.75.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have found buyers to a fair extent at quotation, the market closing rather weaker with sellers. Watsons have changed hands at \$12½, but more shares are obtainable at the rate. There is no more business to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$350, sal. & b
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125, 180	% prem=
China & Japan, prf.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£3 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£5. 5s., buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$23, sales & buyers
Founders Shares...	£1	\$23, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A. ...	£1	\$9, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8.75, sales
China Sugar	\$100	\$154, sales & buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo...	Tls. 100	Tls. 111, buyers
Hongkong	£20	18, sellers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 122, buyers
Lau Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 114
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 575
Yahloong	Tls. 70	Tls. 72
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$4.75, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo. ...	\$25	\$28 25
Green Island Cement...	\$10	[\$303, ex. N.R., sales
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$33, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$1½, sales
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$112, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$48
Hongkong Ice	\$23	\$113
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$63, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$170, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$226 p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		[\$407]
Canton	\$50	\$160, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$107, sales & buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$73, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$367½
North-China	\$25	Tls. 200, sellers
Straits	\$20	\$19, sales & sellers
Union	\$25	\$230, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$155, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$75
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	9.75, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	19, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$21½, sales
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$37, sales & buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$ 00, buyers
Great E. & C. Donian	\$	5.75, buyers
Do. Do.	\$2½	\$3.10, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$2.30, sellers
New Balmoral	\$1	\$1.40, sal. & sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.50, sal. & sellers
Oliver's Mines, A. ...	\$5	\$20
Do. B. ...	\$2½	\$3, sales
Punjom	\$4	\$4.25, sal. & sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.40, buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$2½, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$10	\$18, sales
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$77, buyers
China Mutual Ord...	£5	\$2 10s. buyers
Do. Preference...	£10	£7, buyers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$8, sales & sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$30½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$51, sales & buyers
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$2	\$2, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$2, sellers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$44½, sellers
Watson & Co., S. A. ...	\$10	\$12½, sales

J. V. Y. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 22nd October.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—A moderate business has been done during the week. Bank.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—One or two cash lots have changed hands at 184 per cent premium, and shares were placed for the 31st December at 188 per cent premium. National Bank of China.—Some Founders' share changed hands at \$22. Marine Insurance.—Business has been confined to North-Chinas at Tls. 200, and Yangtses at \$155. There are sellers of the latter at the same price. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have been placed at Tls. 37, and there are more offering; and China Ship's Ordinary shares with £5 paid up were sold, and are wanted, at Tls. 20. Fire Insurance.—There is no local change

to report. Hongkongs are quoted \$367½ in Hongkong. Sugar Companies.—There has been some excitement in China Sugar Refining shares. On the 16th they changed hands for the 31st at \$149½ and \$150. A demand set in later, both locally and from Hongkong, and cash shares were forced up to \$154 cash, and \$157½/158 for December, while a sale was made to Hongkong at \$152 for the 31st. The Hongkong market has not responded to these high rates, as the cash quotation is \$151 with buyers. Luzon Sugar Refining shares have fallen to \$33. Mining.—Punjom Mining shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$4.25, and a local sale of Raub Australian Gold Mining shares is reported at \$24. There are buyers at this price. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Boyd & Co. shares have been sold at Tls. 185, and Shanghai Engineering and Dock shares at Tls. 93 for March delivery. These are wanted at Tls. 90 cash. S. C. Farnham & Co.'s shares are offering at Tls. 170. Lands.—Business has been confined to a sale of Shanghai Land Investment shares at Tls. 91. Industrial.—Major Brothers shares were sold, and are wanted, at Tls. 35. Ewos have been sold Tls. 112, but are weak with sellers. There has been a better demand for Internationals, which have been changing hands at Tls. 121 to Tls. 122 cash, and Tls. 122 for the 31st, Tls. 124 for November, and Tls. 124/125 for December. Lau-Kung-Mow have been done at Tls. 114 cash and Tls. 116 for December delivery. American Cigarette shares have been sold, and are wanted, at Tls. 85. Tug and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares are in demand at Tls. 20. Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were sold at \$205 for cash and for the 31st current, and at Tls. 207½ for the 30th November. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares are wanted. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares changed hands at Tls. 93 to Tls. 92 cash, Tls. 94 to Tls. 92 for the 31st current, Tls. 96 to Tls. 91 for the 30th November Tls. 96 to Tls. 91 for 31st December, and Tls. 100 for the 31st March. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares have also been dropping, sales having been made at Tls. 460/450 cash, Tls. 455 for the 31st current, Tls. 480 for November, Tls. 500 and Tls. 455 for December, and Tls. 550 for March. Hall and Holtz shares have changed hands at \$38½ ex dividend, and Green Island Cement shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$30.75. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment 6 per cent Debentures of 1890 were sold, and are wanted, at Tls. 101, plus the accrued interest.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 22nd October (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—There is little of interest to write about our homeward freight market, and though the rate to New York via Suez has been slightly improved, by the addition of a further 2s. 6d., making 25s. per ton of 4 cubic feet, other directions remain unaltered. For London, tonnage has been ample for local requirements, while a fortnight has elapsed since we have had a steamer on the New York berth. For London via Suez—Cargo is exceedingly scarce, and there is little encouragement for steamers to call here. For New York via Suez.—This berth has been empty since the departure of the *Liv* on the 6th instant, but is now occupied by the *Macduff*, which arrived on the 18th instant. She has engaged a large quantity of cargo at 22s. 6d., including over 1,000 tons of new season's wool from Tientsin, the remainder being for the most part tea, and she expects to sail to-morrow morning for Foochow. The *St. Ninian* is due about the 26th instant, and as her allotted space for this port is fully engaged, some 1,200 tons, including transshipments from the northern ports, she will not stay here more than a couple of days on her way south. New York via Cape.—The *Helén Brewer* expects to clear to-morrow. Charterers have been somewhat disappointed in their ideas of her carrying capabilities, and there being no space procurable in other loading vessels, a considerable amount of tea, intended for shipment by her, has to go forward by steamer at very considerably advanced rates. The *Drumellan* will remain here longer than was originally intended, a ship, the *Agenor*, having been taken up in Hongkong in order to prevent the necessity for the local vessel being hurried southwards. All vessels are fully engaged, and at 17s., the highest rate paid this season, no space can be procured. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 35s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 35s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 42s. 6d.; Baltimore via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 47s. 6d.; Königsberg via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 42s. 6d.; Manchester, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 50s.; tea 47s. 6d.; Liverpool, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea

42s. 6d.; Hamburg, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 37s. 6d.; tea 35s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. Havre, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net; Marseilles, by Conference Lines, tallow 32s. 6d. net, general cargo 32s. 6d. net, waste silk 35s. net, tea 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail, 17s.; nominal, no tonnage available. New York via Pacific, 1½ gold cents per lb. tea, 3 cents per lb. silk, \$12 per ton strawbrad; New York via Suez, 25s. per ton general cargo, 25s. tea; Boston, 32s. 6d. per ton general cargo; Philadelphia, 32s. 6d. per ton general cargo. Coast rates:—Mojito to Shanghai \$1.15 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.15 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe 20 cents; Newchwang to southern ports, 25 cents, immediate loading; Wuhu to Canton, 15 cents.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Socotra* (str.), *Sunda* (str.), *Glenartney* (str.), *Teucer* (str.), *Thames* (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Gaelic* (str.), *City of Peking* (str.), *New York*.
For NEW YORK.—*Dromedary*, *Abner Coburn* (str.), *Macduff* (str.), *Agenor*, *Saint Ninian* (str.).
For TACOMA.—*Tacoma* (str.).
For SEATTLE.—*Kagoshima Maru* (str.).
For PORTLAND.—*Lombard* (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—*Australian* (str.).
For BALTIMORE.—*Isaac Reed*, *Iolani*.
For BREMEN.—*Sachsen* (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—*Telema* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

October—

ARRIVALS.

20, Ask, Danish str., from Haiphong.
21, Gaelic, British str., from San Francisco.
21, Aztec, Hawaiian str., from S. Francisco.
21, Benmohr, British str., from Singapore.
21, Krim, Norw. str., from Hongay.
21, Changsha, British str., from Kobe.
21, Wuhu, British str., from Shanghai.
21, Ceres, German str., from Moji.
21, Woosung, British str., from Newchwang.
21, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
22, Peiyang, German str., from Canton.
22, Hermann, German str., from Moji.
22, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
22, Haimun, British str., from Coast Ports.
22, Jason, British str., from Amoy.
22, Toonan, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
22, Victoria, Swedish str., from Haiphong.
23, F lkenburg, German str., from Moji.
23, Panther, Austrian cruiser, from Shanghai.
23, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
23, Canton, British str., from Canton.
23, Singan, British str., from Canton.
23, Inaba Maru, Jap. str., from Singapore.
23, Gisela, Austrian str., from Kobe.
23, Daphne, German str., from Chefoo.
23, Taichow, British str., from Bangkok.
23, Frammes, Norw. str., from Port Wallut.
23, Shantung, British str., from Swatow.
23, China, German str., from Saigon.
23, Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
23, Monmouthshire, Brit. str., from Portland.
23, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
23, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
24, Chingping, Chinese str., from Tientsin.
24, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
24, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
24, Propontis, British str., from Port Louis.
24, Wosang, British str., from Chinkiang.
24, Vega, German bark, from Menado.
24, Kaifong, British str., from Canton.
24, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
24, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
24, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
25, Krim, Norwegian str., from Canton.
25, Chowfa, British str., from Moji.
25, Sydney, French str., from Shanghai.
25, Ulysses, British str., from Liverpool.
26, Hermann, German str., from Canton.
26, Sikh, British str., from New York.
26, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
26, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
26, Melbourne, French str., from Marseilles.
26, Wuhu, British str., from Canton.
26, Nanyang, German str., from Coast Ports.
26, Socotra, British str., from Yokohama.

October— DEPARTURES.

21, Hohenzollern, German str., for Y'hama.
21, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
21, Ravenna, British str., for Europe.
21, Sachsen, German str., for Shanghai.
21, Chingtu, British str., for Kobe.
21, Loongmoon, Ger. str., for Shanghai.
21, Nord. Norw. str., for Singapore.
21, Oanfa, British str., for London.
22, Wuhu, British str., for Canton.
22, Bygdo, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
22, Krim, Norwegian str., for Canton.
22, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
22, Ancona, British str., for Yokohama.
22, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
22, Ask, Danish str., for Haiphong.
22, Cosmopolit, German str., for Hongay.
22, Hiogo Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
22, Hiroshima Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
22, Machew, British str., for Yokohama.
22, Phra Nang, British str., for Bangkok.
22, Skuld, Norwegian str., for Tientsin.
22, Yamashiro Maru, Jap. str., for Thursday Island.
23, Toonan, Chinese str., for Canton.
23, M. Rickmers, German str., for Bangkok.
23, Taicheong, German str., for Taiwanfoo.
23, Hermann, German str., for Canton.
23, Jason, British str., for London.
23, Peiyang, German str., for Shanghai.
24, Astral, British str., for Pulo Sembilan.
24, Canton, British str., for Foochow.
24, Changsha, British str., for Australia.
24, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
24, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
24, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
24, Inaba Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
24, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.
24, Singan, British str., for Port Wallut.
24, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
24, Fuji, Japanese warship, for Nagasaki.
24, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
25, Chingping, Chinese str., for Canton.
25, Frammes, Norw. str., for Canton.
25, Krim, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
25, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
25, Lyeemoon, German str., for Canton.
26, Ceres, German str., for Hamburg.
26, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
26, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Swatow.
26, Catherine Apear, British str., for C'utta.
26, Gisela, Austrian str., for Trieste.
26, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
26, Hermann, German str., for Iloilo.
26, Phra Chom Klao, Brit. str., for Bangkok.
26, Sikh, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
26, Wuhu, British str., for Shanghai.
26, Grafton, British cruiser, for Singapore.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Sachsen*, for Hongkong from Bremen, &c.—Messrs. Möhmking, Becker, Stevens, Otto, Kutter, Gutmann, Lorenzen, Woodcock and family, Ormsby and family, Mrs. Mieck and children, Miss Noll, Mrs. Berner and daughters. For Japan—Prof. Dr. Bieler, Messrs. Meinicke, Steinmetz, Carlo Guissani, and Vogtherr. For Shanghai—Mrs. Kuschel and child; Mrs. Johnston and daughter, Mr. Bawring, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, Messrs. Wiedepold, Schulze, van Laer, Horrocks, Willis, Smith, Tuck, Kreyer, Pape, Christensen, Mrs. Laughton and children, Rev. and Mrs. Webster, Dr. Isabella Aitkin, Miss Paton, Mr. and Mrs. Baller, Mr. and Mrs. Peat, Miss Baller, Miss Akehurst, Mrs. Ziegan, Miss Brunnenschweiler, Miss Slenk, Mr. Robertson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Böttcher, Mrs. Moore and children.
Per *Wingsang*, from Shanghai, &c.—Messrs. Boyd, Yule, and D'Almeida.
Per *Gaelic*, from San Francisco, &c.—Rev. and Mrs. C. M. Hyde, Messrs. W. H. Hamilton, J. Hastings, Fung Wa Chun, H. Grage, M. Westgate, P. L. Markel, R. Adams, W. Robbins, J. Pimentel, Geo. Campbell, Ralph Dunn, Lee B. Lok and R. McNab, Mr. and Mrs. Larz Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Michaelson and children, Misses Ellen Carlson, Grace Webb, H. Miller, E. Early, and Alice Sherwood, Col. Chas. Bentzoni, Mrs. Von Schlutterbach, Mrs. M. L. Ede, Mrs. Thiele and child, Mrs. Jung, She and children, Mrs. Teah She and child; Mrs. J. Lesser, Mrs. B. Vance, Mrs. R. Reynolds and Master Tom Dunn, and 392 Chinese.

Per *Changsha*, from Kobe, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. G. Grimble, Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell and Master Mitchell, Messrs. Tringham and Sanbier.
Per *Toonan*, from Shanghai—Mr. Whitfield.
Per *Haimun*, from Coast Ports—Messrs. Mehta and Yamaguchi, and Rev. S. Vallings.
Per *Victoria*, from Haiphong, &c.—Mr. W. Flayelle.

Per *Inaba Maru*, from Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Holtz, Mrs. Whitefield and two children, Mrs. Moller and Mrs. Nielson.

Per *Gisela*, from Kobe.—Messrs. Rew, Moore, and Crostie.

Per *Sungkiang*, from Manila—Messrs. Don Valentin and Padre Corris.

Per *Lyeemoon*, from Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. Stapleton, Capt. H. H. Cunningham, and Mr. Otto Ploetz.

Per *Sydney*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Hall, Messrs. Augustin, Carlos Gsell, Rudeloff, Palmer, Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, Mr. Blampied, Rev. Ware, Messrs. Wason, Herbert, Watt, How, Mrs. Hall Brutton, Capt. Barry Drew, Lieut. Crowley, Lieut. Howard, Dr. Kempe, Mr. Perez, Mrs. and Miss Donenberg, Mrs. Halm, Messrs. Dang Soa and Dang Poa, Mr. and Mrs. Chow Chang; for Saigon, Mr. Cudenet; for Marseilles, Messrs. Harmand and family, Doyère, Herre, Vinot, Durand, Douxami, Creten, Outin, Destreaneau, Winogradoff, Goedkoop, Fujai, and Fujiraro.

DEPARTED.

Per *Formosa*, for Swatow—Mr. H. Brown.

Per *Ravenna*, from Hongkong for Singapore, Mr. Robert McNah, Miss Early, Mrs. Thiele and child; for Penang, Mr. Mahoney; for Colombo, Mr. L. Fiessler; for Bombay, Messrs. J. S. Fatakia, M. H. Katrak, Sahaf Bashi, A. B. Khuras, and J. A. Chinoy; for Brindisi, Mr. and Master Dunn; for London, Messrs. G. Martlew and W. H. Hamilton; from Shanghai for Singapore, Miss Tredennick, Mr. J. R. T. Pledger; for London, Mr. G. H. T. Steer, R.N.E., Dr. Donaldson Smith, Mr. G. Stinks, Fleet Engr. M. W. Ellis, R.N., Mr. and Mrs. F. S. D'ane and 2 children.

Per *Sachsen*, for Shanghai from Bremen, Mrs. M. Kuschel and Mr. O. Böttcher; from Southampton, Mrs. Laughton, Messrs. J. Horrocks, F. Willis, F. R. Smith, E. Fluck, Rev. and Mrs. Webster, Dr. Isabella Aitken, Pastor Lin, Miss Mary Paton, Mr. and Mrs. Baller, Mr. and Mrs. Peat, Misses Baller and Akehurst, Mrs. Ziegan, and Mrs. H. Moore; from Genoa, Mrs. E. Brunnenschweiler, Mrs. E. Glenk, Messrs. Robertson, B. J. Kreyer, and J. H. Christensen, Mrs. Johnston, Messrs. C. F. Bawring, W. Wiederhold, Carl Schube, Lieut. Webzel, Mrs. E. Fuchs, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper; from Naples, Mr. Pope; from Singapore, Mr. J. van Laer; from Hongkong, Messrs. Ruschel, G. Harling, and Schulat.

Per *Hohenzollern*, for Yokohama from Genoa, Lieut. Meinicke, Prof. Dr. K. Bieler, Messrs. G. Jasnaga and K. Kamura; from Bremen, Mr. W. Sleimetz; from Colombo, Mr. Carlo Guissani; from Hongkong, Mrs. and Miss Schwarz, Mrs. Cella Bross; for Nagasaki from Singapore, Mr. F. Vogtherr, Misses Metsomageda, Toedjee, Paomassang, and Osuksang, and Mr. Ng Jeon Ghoo.

Per *Ancona*, from Hongkong for Nagasaki, Chief Engr. H. P. Vining, R.N., and Mr. H. J. Houben; for Yokohama from Bombay, Mr. Howard; from Colombo, Messrs. Wrenn and A. J. Verina; from Brindisi, Mr. Marcus.

Per *Loongmoon*, for Shanghai—Mr. W. A. McHolterson.

Per *Hiogo Maru*, for Shanghai—Mrs. D. Purvis.

Per *Maria Rickmers*, for Bremerhaven—Capt. and Mrs. Eichhorn, and Capt. Hill.

Per *Inaba Maru*, for Japan from Southampton—Messrs. K. Fukuda and Satow, Miss Dannel, Mrs. C. W. Ure, Miss Larwill, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes, Miss Mayeda, and Mr. Maki; from Hongkong, Mr. C. W. Ure, and Capt. Kolla.

Per *Peiyang*, for Shanghai—Mr. and Mrs. T. C. A. Holtz, Mrs. Nielson and 2 children.

Per *Haimun*, for Swatow—Mr. Montgomery; for Amoy, Messrs. Khoo Ghee Poh and Wong San Leung; for Foochow, Mr. Hughes.

Per *Kwanglee*, for Shanghai—Mrs. Whitfield and baby, Master Whitfield, and Capt. Petersen.

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